

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XVII.—NEW SERIES, No. 602.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1857.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED .. 6d.
STAMPED 6d.

THE ROYAL POLYTECHNIC
is OPEN from Twelve to Five and Seven to Ten, having
been redecorated and carpeted.—Admission to the whole, 1s.;
Children under Ten, and Schools, half-price.

GRAND MORNING and EVENING CONCERTS, at Three
and Half-past Eight, by the unrivaled HUNGARIAN BAND.
Conductor, Herr KALOZOY. Vocalists, Signor and Madame
ONORATI, from the Royal Italian Opera.

NEW LECTURES by J. H. PEPPER, Esq., on "the FIRE
ANNIHILATOR," and "BREAD and its ADULTERATION."

VENTRiloquism EXTRAORDINARY, by Mr. JAMES,
daily at Two and Half-past Seven.

STEVENS'S EIGHTY NEW and BEAUTIFUL COSMO-
RAMAS and STEREOSCOPES, open from Twelve to Four.

NEW SERIES of DISSOLVING VIEWS, and PANORAMAS,
ILLUSTRATING CHINA and the LOCALITIES of the PRESENT
WAR, with an interesting LECTURE on the MANNERS and
CUSTOMS of the CHINESE, by A. E. SPENCER, Esq., and
Exhibition of many Chinese Curiosities from Messrs. HEWITT,
of Fenchurch-street. Also another very imposing SERIES
ILLUSTRATING "EGYPT in the TIME of the PHARAOHS," with
Description written and delivered by LEICESTER BUCKING-
HAM, Esq., daily, except Friday, at Half-past Four and a
Quarter to Ten.

The DISSOLVING VIEWS of BLUE BEARD, every Friday.

The DIVER and DIVING BELL; 3,000 MODELS and
WORKS of ART; ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTS; MA-
CHINERY always in Motion; MONTANARI'S ART WAX
WORK.

KEY'S PARIS and the PARISIANS.—
Baden—Black Forest—Caricature—Piano—Rough
Sketches. Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Mornings, at
Three. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday Evenings, at Eight.
Seats, 1s.; Chairs, 2s. 2d, Saville-row, Regent-street, facing
New Burlington-street, (Burlington Hall).

PEACE SOCIETY.

The FORTY-FIRST PUBLIC ANNIVERSARY of the
PEACE SOCIETY, will be held in FINSBURY CHAPEL,
MOORFIELDS, on TUESDAY EVENING, May 19, 1857. The
Chair will be taken at Half-past Six o'clock. Doors open at
Six o'clock.

Speeches will be delivered by General Thompson, M.P.; the
Rev. W. Welton, Missionary from China; the Rev. Professor
Nicolay; the Rev. Henry Richard; Malcolm Lewin, Esq., late
a Judge in the Madras Presidency; and other clergymen and
gentlemen.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

A SOIREE of the Friends of this Society will be held in
connection with its NINTH ANNUAL MEETING, at the
MILTON CLUB, LUDGATE-HILL, on the Evening of WED-
NESDAY, May 20.

The Chair will be taken by G. W. ALEXANDER, Esq.
Edward Miall, Esq., James Bell, Esq., Samuel Morley, Esq.,
the Rev. J. Burnet, Rev. W. Brock, Rev. C. Stovel, Rev. B. H.
Cooper, B.A., and other gentlemen, will take part in the
proceedings.

Refreshments will be provided at Six o'clock.

Tickets of Admission, 1s. each, may be obtained at the Milton
Club; of Mr. B. L. Green, 62, Paternoster-row; and at the
Office of the Association, 7, Blomfield-street, Finsbury.

THE NEW ASYLUM for FATHERLESS
CHILDREN, STAMFORD-HILL. Under the Patronage
of her Majesty the QUEEN. (Instituted 1844.)

The ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL of this
Charity will be held at the LONDON TAVERN, BISHOPS-
GATE-STREET, on TUESDAY, 19th May inst.

The Right Hon. STEPHEN LUSHINGTON, D.C.L., will
preside on the occasion.

STEWARDS.

The Right Hon. Viscount RAYNHAM, M.P.
The Hon. Lord ALFRED PAGET, M.P.
Baron LIONEL DE ROTHSCHILD, M.P.
Sir JAMES DUKE, Bart., Ald., M.P.
ACTON S. AYRTON, Esq., M.P.
Sir GEORGE CARROLL, Bart.
Mr. Sheriff MECHI.
D. W. WIRE, Esq., Ald.

Rev. Thos. Aveling.
S. P. Arnold, Esq.
Charles Balam, Esq.
Thomas Bamford, Esq.
John Black, Esq.
William Black, Esq.
John W. Buckhill, Esq.
G. W. Bingo, Esq.
James Carter, Esq.
William Collins, Esq.
Thomas Curwen, Esq.
W. G. Davies, Esq.
Alexander Fraser, Esq.
Henry Harvey, Esq.
Edmund C. Hobson, Esq.

DAVID W. WIRE, { Hon. Seca.
THOMAS W. AVELING, } Hon. Seca.

Office, 32, Poultry, where forms of Application for Candidates
may be had gratuitously, and every information, on any day,
from Ten till Four. Subscriptions most thankfully received.
Post-office Orders should be made payable to Mr. John Cuzner,
Sub-Secretary, and addressed to him at the Office of the
Charity.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE

ART TREASURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM NOW OPEN AT MANCHESTER.

THIS Palace, covering a space of 18,000 square
yards, contains the LARGEST and most VALUABLE
COLLECTION OF WORKS OF ART,

Ancient and Modern, ever collected, and which, there are many
reasons for supposing, can never be brought together again.

REFRESHMENTS are provided on an extensive scale at
moderate charges.

PRICES OF ADMISSION:—From the 6th to the 16th May
(both days inclusive), 2s. 6d. for each person. On and after
Monday, the 18th May, 1s. for each person, except on Thursday
in each week, when the charge will be 2s. 6d. for each person.

SEASON TICKETS at 2s. 2d. entitle the proprietors to ad-
mission on all occasions when the Exhibition is open to the
public; tickets at 1s. 1s. entitle to admission on all but the
"reserved days." These Tickets may be procured at the Exhi-
bition Building; or at the offices, 100, Mosley street.

HOURS OF EXHIBITION.—The doors will be open daily at
ten o'clock, and will be closed at sunset. A bell will be rung
ten-an-hour before closing.

CATALOGUES.—A General Catalogue, price 1s., is sold in
the Palace.

BATH CHAIRS are provided at a moderate charge for the
use of ladies and invalids.

Arrangements are being made with the various railway com-
panies to enable visitors to come direct from any part of the
country to the Building. The London and North-Western
Railway Company have arranged to convey passengers from
London by the 6.15 A.M. train, returning to London in the
Evening, allowing four or five hours in the Exhibition.

THOMAS HAMILTON, Secretary.

Offices, 100, Mosley-street.

EXHIBITION of ART TREASURES of the
UNITED KINGDOM, 1857.—NOTICE to HOUSE-
HOLDERS: APARTMENTS.—The Executive Committee
having reason to believe that many of their fellow-citizens will be
disposed to offer accommodation to strangers visiting Manchester
during the period of the Exhibition, have determined to OPEN,
for the convenience of visitors, a REGISTRY of the APART-
MENTS which, upon application, may be obtained. All parties
disposed are invited to send, without delay, their proposals in
writing, in which must be stated the situation of the house, the
number of sitting and bedrooms, and other accommodations
offered, and the terms required.—Further information may be
obtained at the offices, and all applications must be addressed to
Mr. SAMUEL HADEN, Registrar of apartments, No. 100,
Mosley-street, Manchester.—By order.

THOS. HAMILTON, Secretary.

CRAVEN CHAPEL ORGAN.

This Instrument, built by Mr. Squire, expressly for the
Chapel, will be OPENED on THURSDAY EVENING, May 14, 1857,
at Half-past Six o'clock, by GEORGE COOPER, Esq., of the
Chapel Royal, &c., &c., with a choice selection of First-class
Music, from Mendelssohn, Bach, Handel, and others, intended
to show the varied power of the Instrument.

HENRY BUDGOOD, } Hon. Secs.
WM. JAMES, } Hon. Secs.

A Collection will be made in favour of the Day School Fund.

UNITED KINGDOM TEMPERANCE and
GENERAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION, 1, ADE-
LAIDE-PLACE, LONDON-BRIDGE.

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING of this Association
will be held on MONDAY, the 18th of May, 1857, at the
LONDON TAVERN, BISHOPSGATE-STREET, precisely at
Two o'clock, P.M.

N.B.—During the past year 2,568 policies have been issued
for sums amounting to 13,065. 2s. 10d.

W. R. BAKER, Resident Director.

UNITED KINGDOM ALLIANCE, for the
TOTAL SUPPRESSION of the LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

THE ANNUAL METROPOLITAN MEETING of the Mem-
bers and Friends of the Alliance will be held in EXETER
HALL, LONDON, on TUESDAY, May 26, 1857. The Hon.
NEAL DOW, the Originator of the Maine Liquor Law, will
address the Meeting.

The following Noblemen and Gentlemen are also expected to
take part in the proceedings: The Right Hon. the Earl of Har-
ington, K.C.B.; Sir Walter C. Trevelyan, Bart.; the Hon.
Judge Marshall, of Nova Scotia; Edward Ball, Esq., M.P.;
E. G. Salisbury, Esq., M.P.; Samuel Pope, Esq., Hon. Sec.
The Chair will be taken at Half-past Six, P.M.

Admission by Ticket Free, to be obtained of Mr. W. Tweedie,

337, Strand; W. Horsell, 492, New Oxford-street; R. Bulman,
Aldine-chambers, Paternoster-row; T. Smith, 11, Frederick-
place, Goswell-road; J. Pigrain, 49, Seymour-street, Euston-
square; W. Purvis, 199, Blackfriars-road; G. de Jersey Evans,
12, Newby-place, Poplar; Rev. D. Burns, 40, Grove-road, St.
John's-wood.
Offices, U.K.A., 41, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

A YOUNG LADY, a Member of an Inde-
pendent Church, desires a SITUATION as GOVERNNESS
in a Christian Family. She is competent to give Instruction in
English, French, Music, and Drawing in Pencil and Crayon, it
would be preferable to take the charge of children under Twelve
years of age. The highest references will be given.

Address, A. Z., 10, Chapel street, Bedford-row, W.C.

COMPANIONSHIP.—A LADY offers her
Services as COMPANION to a Christian Lady. She is
well informed, musical, possesses energy and tact, and will
manifest kind considerate attentions. Travelling not objection-
able. The most satisfactory testimonials supplied.

Address (Fidus), Post-office, Streatley, near Reading, Berks.

William Horner
69 Fleet Street

THE

Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

TO DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED,
a YOUNG MAN, of good business habits, as an
ASSISTANT, by J. Simcock, Leamington, Warwickshire.

TO DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED,
One or Two YOUNG MEN of good character and abilities.
Members of an Independent Church preferred.

Apply, F. Finsdale, Rochdale.

TO DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED,
a YOUNG MAN of good character and business abilities.
Apply, stating age, salary, &c., to D. Woodroffe, Rugeley,
Shropshire.

TO BRITISH SCHOOL TEACHERS.—
WANTED a MASTER and MISTRESS for the New
British Schools at Mitcham.

Application, stating age, qualifications, salary, &c., to be
addressed to Mr. Freeman, Common Side, Mitcham, Surrey.

WANTED, a YOUTH, not under Eighteen
years of age, in the OFFICE of a PUBLIC INSTITU-
TION; must be a good penman, of business habits, and of an
excellent character.

Apply, by letter only, C. M., 11, Ludgate-hill, E.C.

TO WOOLLEN DRAPERS.—WANTED, a
respectable YOUNG MAN who thoroughly understands
the READY-MADE and MAKING UP part of the business.
Unexceptionable references for character and ability will be
required. Also TWO ASSISTANTS in the GENERAL
DRAPERY.

Address, for further particulars, Nicholls and Co., Drapers
Bridgewater, forwarding references and stating full particulars.

TO CHEESEMONGERS and PROVISION
MERCHANTS.—WANTED, by a PERSON of active
business habits, a SITUATION as an ASSISTANT, thoroughly
understands his business, as also a knowledge of Grocery, and
would have no objection to make himself generally useful.
Undeniable references can be given.

Address, M. J., Robinson's Coffee House, 99, Old-street,
St. Luke's, London.

THE PARENTS of a Large Family, wish to
place a DAUGHTER for Three years in a well conducted
DRAPERY ESTABLISHMENT, where she will have an
opportunity of acquiring a good knowledge of the business.

Address, stating terms, &c., Mr. E. Stanger, Bexley-road,
Maidstone.

FINSBURY CHAPEL, SOUTH-PLACE.—
GENTLEMEN desirous of promoting the Cultivation
and Diffusion of RELIGIOUS FREE THOUGHT, by Single
Lectures or Courses of Lectures, on SUNDAY MORNINGS, at
the above Chapel, are invited to communicate with the Secre-
tary. The Lectures are not expected to be gratuitous.

A PARTMENTS.—Plenantly situated in the
neighbourhood of HAMPSTEAD-ROAD, suitable for a
GENTLEMAN of quiet habits, on very moderate terms.

Address, E. V., 49, Stanhope-street, Hampstead-road.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL, PECKHAM,
LONDON (S.E.), is adapted for First-class Mercantile
Instruction. Every Pupil is, as far as possible, well grounded
in English, made to write a hand fit for business, and taught to
be quick at Accounts; while the Modern Languages, Chemistry,
and Mechanics, are also liberally provided for. Terms moderate.

J. YEATS, F.R.G.S., Principal.

N.B.—During the ensuing MIDSUMMER HOLIDAYS a few
of the PUPILS are going into the ALPS with the PRINCIPAL
who resided at Hofwyl, near Berne, 1844-7. One or two more
Youths might join the Party.

THE GROVE SCHOOLS, BRILL, BUCKS.

These Schools rank among the first in the Kingdom.

The YOUNG GENTLEMEN are SPECIALLY PREPARED
for any Profession or Position which their Parents may intend
them to occupy.

Brill is one of the most healthy spots in England; this is
proved by the fact that no case of serious illness or contagious
disease has ever occurred at the Grove. Brill Hill, upon which
the village is situated, commands a most delightful and exten-
sive prospect of 200 miles in circumference.

TERMS.—Pupils under Twelve years of age, Twenty Guineas
per annum. Pupils above Twelve years of age, Twenty-four
Guineas per annum.

This sum includes all those items generally charged as
"extras," "requisites," &c.

The following are some of the advantages of this establish-
ment: Sound teaching, constant oversight, absence of corporal
punishment, parental kindness, unlimited supply of the best
provisions, spacious and lofty rooms, and healthful locality.
If desired, the Pupils are allowed to write to their parents
without being desired to show their letters to their teachers.
No better guarantee for proper treatment can be given.

References to Parents of Pupils in all parts of the United
Kingdom; also, if required, in France or Germany.

Parents wishing to place their Sons at School after the Mid-
summer Vacation, may obtain a Pamphlet, containing the
fuller particulars, by applying to the Principal, Dr. Clark, the
Grove, Brill, Bucks.

P.S.—Dr. C. has Four Young Gentlemen now under his care
for whom he is desirous of securing Appointments by Midsum-
mer; as, in common with the elder boys, they have been
accustomed to conduct (in turn) the correspondence of the
school and keep the books, they are well fitted for office
duties. Their moral character is unimpeachable, and the
greatest confidence can be placed in them. Their manu-
script will be expected.

EDUCATION.—4, QUEEN'S-PLACE West, HAMMERSMITH, opposite Scott's Park. Twenty Guineas per annum. The MISSES BEAN receive a limited number of YOUNG LADIES for BOARD and INSTRUCTION in English, French, and Music, upon the above terms, where they will receive all the comforts of home.

References to the Parents of Pupils and the following Gentlemen: Rev. W. Miall, *Dalston*; Rev. H. Bean, *Heckmonwike, Yorkshire*; Rev. J. Leechman, M.A., *Shaftesbury-road, Hammersmith*; Rev. S. Green, *The Grove, Hammersmith*; Messrs. Roach and Sons, *Southwark*; G. Stephenson, Esq., 6, *Brock-nock-terrace, Camden-town*; F. W. Gerish, Esq., *Bast-road, City-road*.

YOUNG LADIES' ESTABLISHMENT,
KING-STREET, LEICESTER.

The MISSES MIALL have for many years pursued a course of Education which has given great satisfaction to the Parents and Guardians of Young Ladies committed to their care. They aim to combine thorough Religious, Moral, and Intellectual Training with a system of Instruction based upon the most approved modern improvements. Careful attention is bestowed upon the domestic comfort of their Pupils. Accomplishments taught by the First Masters. Terms Thirty Guineas per annum.

Prospectuses will be forwarded on application, and references can be made to their brother, E. Miall, Esq., "Nonconformist" Office, *Fleet-street, London*; the Rev. G. Legge, LL.D., *Leicester*; and to the Parents of the Pupils.—A Vacancy for an Article Pupil.

PALMER HOUSE ACADEMY,
HOLLOWAY-ROAD, LONDON, N.

Conducted by Rev. A. STEWART and SONS.

Biblical Instruction, the Greek, Latin, French, and German Languages, Mathematics, and Commercial Arithmetic, with a complete course of English.

Few Private Schools of long standing have better sustained their reputation for the Intellectual, Moral, and Religious Education of Youth.

Hundreds have been educated in this establishment, among whom are eminent Commercial and Professional Men, who attribute their success to the course of training they received here.

Public Testimony has been frequently borne by Parents and others to the Healthy Position and Domestic Comfort of Palmer House.

Increased importance is attached to the Preparatory Department.

Popular Lectures on various subjects are regularly delivered.

The "Favorite" Omnibuses from different parts of London pass the door every few minutes.

The House is situated within five minutes' walk of the Holloway Station, Great Northern Railway; and Highbury Station, North London Railway.

Prospectuses and Testimonials forwarded on application.

LONDON INVESTMENT COMPANY
(Limited).

Offices, 36, MOORGATE-STREET.

Capital 100,000*l.*, in 20,000 Shares of 5*l.* each. Deposit, 1*l.* per Share.

It is not anticipated any further call will be made.

This Company is prepared to receive applications for LOANS to any amount for short or long periods, repayable as may be agreed upon, and receive money as deposit, withdrawable on seven days' notice.—Applications for the unallotted Shares, for prospectuses, or any other information relating to the Company, may be made to

ANDREW J. ROBY, Managing Director.

THE CAMBRIAN and UNIVERSAL LIFE
and FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY. Capital 100,000*l.*
Established 1849.

OFFICE, 27, GRESHAM-STREET.

Agencies in the principal towns of England and Wales.

This office offers the benefit of insurance in all its branches, and is highly eligible for every description of life assurance.

A new and most important feature entirely originating with this Company, viz., Marriage Dowries, Life Assurance, and Deferred Annuities, included in one policy.

Rates of Premium moderate.

Annuities granted. Family endowments.

Loans on personal and other securities.

Forms of proposal and every information may be obtained on application. By order,

ALFRED MELIADO, Manager.

ANNUITIES.—Annuities, Immediate and Deferred, are granted by the Directors of the ACHILLES INSURANCE COMPANY, to parties of every age, on equitable terms. The following are illustrations of the Rates:—

Amount of Immediate Annuity granted for every 1,000*l.* paid to the Company:—

Age	£ s. d.
30	5 18 8
40	6 12 8
50	7 11 5
60	10 7 0

The general advantages offered by this Company will be seen on an investigation of its Rates of Premium. It offers to the Assured the security of a large subscribed capital, combined with all the advantages of a Mutual Assurance Office.—Eighty per cent. of the profits being divided among the Policy-holders every five years.

The RATES of PREMIUM, which have been calculated by the Consulting Actuary, are based upon the latest and most approved corrected Tables of Mortality, and will, therefore, be found lower than those adopted by other and earlier institutions.

DIRECTORS.

EDWARD MIALL, Esq., Chairman.

Col. Lothian S. Dickson, J. Bishop Culpepper, Esq. Adolphus Baker, Esq. Henry Francis Home, Esq. R. S. Ashton, Esq. James Tolman, Esq. Thos. Houghton Burnett, Esq.

BANKERS—COMMERCIAL BANK of LONDON.

STANDING COUNSEL.

ROBERT PORRETT COLLIER, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. SHEARD and BAKER, 3, Cloak-lane, City. CONSULTING ACTUARY—JENKIN JONES, Esq., F.I.A.

MANCHESTER.

DIRECTORS.

JAMES WATTS, Esq., Mayor of Manchester, Chairman. R. Shorrocks Ashton, Esq., J.P. Thomas Roberts, Esq. William Jenkinson, Esq. Robert Rumney, Esq. William Martin, Esq. J. Wood, Esq. (Wood & Wright.) William Woodward, Esq.

LOCAL SECRETARY—JOHN KINGSLEY, Esq. OFFICES—11, DUCIE-PLACE (opposite the Exchange).

BIRMINGHAM.

LOCAL SECRETARY.

DAVID MALINS, jun., Esq., 34, Colmore-row.

Forms of Proposal, Rates of Premium, and any other particulars, can be obtained of the Agents of the Company, and at the Chief Office, 25, Cannon-street, London.

H. B. TAPLIN, Secretary.

BANK OF DEPOSIT,
3, PALL MALL EAST, LONDON.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

Parties desirous of Investing Money are requested to examine the Plan of the BANK of DEPOSIT.

Prospectuses and Forms for opening accounts sent free on application.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

NATIONAL FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY,
14, MOORGATE-STREET.

NOTICE is hereby given that the QUARTERLY MEETING of the Members of the NATIONAL PERMANENT MUTUAL BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY, commonly called the National Freehold Land Society, will be held at the LONDON TAVERN, BISHOPSGATE-STREET, in the City of London, on THURSDAY, the 28th inst., at Half-past Six o'clock in the evening.

And NOTICE is hereby also given that a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the same Society will be held at the same place, and on the same day, immediately at the close of the Quarterly meeting, in pursuance of the requisition, and notice of which was publicly read at the Annual Meeting of the said Members on the 13th February, 1857, and for the purpose of considering the propriety of altering the Rules of the said Society as in the said requisition is specified.

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE
SOCIETY.

DECLARATION of BONUS.—NOTICE.—That a BONUS has been declared for the past quinquennial period upon all participating policies, making an addition thereto of the aggregate sum of 200,627*l.* The bonus may be applied either as an addition to the sum assured, or in reduction of the premiums.

This Society has been established forty-eight years, during which it has paid to the representatives of 6,051 deceased members 4,907,376*l.* During the five years since the last declaration of bonus, it has paid 1,048,687*l.* 18*s.* id., namely, 865,427*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* sum assured, and 183,239*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* bonuses theron. At the expiration of that term, 10,132 policies were in force, insuring 5,592,427*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* while its accumulated capital amounted to 2,195,271*l.* It is one of the very few purely mutual offices, its rates of premium are much below those usually charged, and it offers to its members the full advantage of the system of life assurance.

For Reports of the General Meeting, prospectuses, and forms of proposal, apply to the Society's offices, Surrey-street, Norwich, and 6, Crescent, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, London.

1,000*l.* IN CASE OF DEATH,

A FIXED ALLOWANCE of 6*l.* PER WEEK,

IN THE EVENT OF INJURY BY

ACCIDENTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,

may be secured by an Annual Payment of 3*l.* for a Policy in the RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Smaller amounts may be secured by proportionate payments. NO CHARGE FOR STAMP DUTY.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS ALONE may be insured against by the Journey, or by the Year, at all the principal Railway Stations; where also Forms of Proposal and Prospectuses may be had—and of the Provincial Agents—and at the Head Office, London.

N.B.—The usefulness of this Company is shown by the sum paid as Compensation for Accidents—22,722*l.*

Railway Passengers' Assurance Company, Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary. Office, 3, Old Broad-street (E.S.).

SUCCESSFUL TERMINATION OF THREE BUILDING SOCIETIES.

ESTABLISHMENT of a NEW ASSOCIATION.

NEW WEST LONDON BUILDING SOCIETY, held at 41, Tottenham-court-road, until the Tabernacle School is rebuilt. Shares, 10*l.* Subscription, 10*l.* Entrance fee, 2*s.* 6*d.* Great Progress.

In consequence of the large number of shares issued, the charge will be increased to 5*s.* per share on 27th May. Three Societies satisfactorily closed, paying the shares in full, and conveying the houses to the members. Bonus just declared in one of the Societies 12 per cent. per annum upon all subscriptions paid. Loan deposits received at 6 per cent. No risk incurred, all property upon which funds are invested being thoroughly examined by three surveyors. No personal securities, such as Bill of Sale, Notes, &c., taken. No rack rents, doubtful or unfinished property accepted. All property mortgaged liable for deposits and shares. The West London and Independent Building Societies are amongst the most prosperous in England, having advanced 139,626*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* upon freeholds, leaseholds, and copyholds. Next meeting, 26th May, at Seven, 1,000*l.* advanced every month.

Manager, J. HOLCOMBE, 3, Oldham-place, opposite Guildford-place, Baginbie-wells-road, W.C.

IMPERIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, 1, OLD BROAD-STREET, LONDON.

Instituted 1820.

T. GEORGE BARCLAY, Esq., Chairman.

MARTIN T. SMITH, Esq., M.P., Deputy-Chairman.

One-third of the Premium on Insurances of 500*l.* and upwards, for the whole term of life, may remain as a debt upon the Policy, to be paid off at convenience; or the Directors will lend sums of 50*l.* and upwards, on the security of Policies effected with this Company, for the whole term of life, when they have acquired an adequate value.

Four-fifths, or Eighty per cent., of the Profits are assigned to Policies every fifth year, and may be applied to increase the sum insured, to an immediate payment in cash, or to the reduction and ultimate extinction of future Premiums.

At the fifth appropriation of Profits for the five years terminating January 31, 1856, a reversionary bonus was declared of 6*l.* per cent. on the sums insured, and subsisting additions for every Premium paid during the five years. This bonus, on Policies of the longest duration, exceeds 2*l.* 5*s.* per cent. per annum on the original sums insured, and increases a Policy of 1,000*l.* to 1,638*l.*

Proposals for insurances may be made at the Chief Office, as above; at the Branch Office, 16, Pall-mall, London; or to any of the Agents throughout the Kingdom.

BONUS TABLE.

SHOWING THE ADDITIONS MADE TO POLICIES OF 1,000*l.* EACH.

Date of Insurance.	Amount of Additions to Feb. 1, 1851.	Addition made as on Feb. 1, 1856.	Sum payable after Death.
1820.....	523 16 0	114 5 0	1638 1 0
1825.....	382 14 0	103 14 0	1486 8 0
1830.....	241 12 0	93 2 0	1334 14 0
1835.....	185 3 0	88 17 0	1274 0 0
1840.....	128 15 0	84 13 0	1213 8 0
1845.....	65 15 0	79 18 0	1145 13 0
1850.....	10 0 0	75 15 0	1085 15 0
1855.....	—	15 0 0	1015 0 0

And for intermediate years in proportion.

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THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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understand one another much better than they once did.

Our first observations will have reference to the public meeting, held on Wednesday evening last, at St. Martin's Hall, of which a full report will be found elsewhere. We may as well, perhaps, confess at starting, that for a long time past we have placed less and less reliance upon public meetings as proofs of the practical power exerted by a political movement. To some extent the remark will apply to the provinces; but it is in reference to the Metropolis that we speak more emphatically. London is a kingdom crowded within a few square miles, in which competition for a livelihood is so keen and excessive, care for public interests is so disproportionately small, and social and domestic habits are so unfavourable to evening engagements abroad, that nothing but an object of momentary and intense excitement can draw together very large assemblies. The old Anti-State Church Association had one or two anniversaries lifted into unusual popularity by the peculiar circumstances of the day; but, ordinarily, its meetings have been characterised by the heartiness rather than the numbers of the audience. Last week there was no perceptible diminution of zeal. The tone of the public meeting was everything that the friends of the Liberation Society could have wished. The speeches—especially that of Mr. W. J. Fox—were of a high order, intellectually as well as morally, and were thoroughly appreciated. A cheeriness of spirit pervaded both the platform and the benches, which showed the society to be in the best working condition. But it would be useless to conceal that the attendance was not so encouraging in point of numbers as we have sometimes seen it. We could easily enumerate the causes which, in our opinion, account for this—and foremost amongst them we should place the transference of the meeting from Finsbury Chapel to St. Martin's Hall—a change which we entirely approve. But we look upon the fact as so comparatively trivial, so devoid of serious significance, so little demonstrative of the actual position and power of the society, that we should not have thought it worth notice but that some of our contemporaries have seized upon it as a text for disparaging remarks.

Far surer criteria of the society's condition may be found in the report of the executive committee, and in the influential and business-like character of the meeting of council. We were fortunately able to present our readers last week with a copy of the report, which we are confident they must have found as satisfactory in substance as it was lucid in arrangement and attractive in style. So, at least, the gentlemen of the council appeared to regard it. As a calm, modest, and dignified summary of the society's operations during last year, the document answered the one purpose which a *bond fide* report ought to aim at achieving—and it shows most unequivocally that the organisation whose movements it recounts is doing a great work, and doing it well. In fact, the concentrated force of the association is brought to bear upon precisely the spot upon which every stroke tells. There is far less noise in the working of the well-adjusted machinery than there once was—far less waste, or seeming waste, of power—but effort is more systematic, action more definite, aims more practical, and results more certain. The executive has become familiar with its ground, its materials, and its tools. It knows where to go to work, upon what classes, and by what agencies. It has at its command the accumulated information and experience of some thirteen years. It has also acquired a moral *status* which adds incalculably to its influence. If its pecuniary means were fully adequate to its opportunity of turning them to good account, we see no necessary limit to its capabilities of success. It has vitality enough to assimilate, absorb, and develop a far larger amount of money assistance than it has ever yet enjoyed. It may boast, however, that it has made its little go a long

way. It wants, not larger and more liberal contributions, but a much greater number of them.

The Executive Committee, we presume, would be specially gratified by the attendance at, and the tone of, the General Council. We never remember to have witnessed so inspiring a gathering on any similar occasion. And when it is borne in mind that these meetings derive no interest from anything beyond the business that is actually transacted by them, offer no opportunity for display, and are purely deliberative in their character, it would be unreasonable, we think, to regard the meeting of council on Wednesday morning last, in any other light than as giving evidence of sound and steady progress. It is clear that the representative organ of the association is healthy and hearty, which, in the earlier history of the movement was not always the case. We look with great thankfulness on this development of fibre and muscle. It indicates that the progress made is of the right kind.

Our friends will perceive from the strain of the foregoing observations that we take a hopeful, perhaps a sanguine view of the position and prospects of the Liberation Society. We do. We have now seen how the gallant bark can hold on its way under the immediate pressure of sudden accident. We now know that, although it may lose a spar or two in the gale, it is weather-tight and sea-worthy. This is as much as we can require for the present. Favouring winds will come when Heaven sends them. We can wait in confidence. With a good ship, a good crew, good officers, and a good course, we can cheerfully face the new storms and reverses which may be expected to vary the monotony of so distant a voyage—and without taking upon us heavier cares than the faithful discharge of present duties requires, we enter upon the service of another year in the fullest assurance that earnestness, truthfulness, and steady perseverance cannot possibly be lost when engaged in so worthy a cause.

CONVOCATION.

The Convocation of the Prelates and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury met on Friday at Westminster. An unusually large number assembled. In the Upper House, a debate took place on the address to the Crown. One passage of the address said—"Hitherto the shortness of time given to our consultation has in a great measure frustrated the advantages which we humbly trust would result if further opportunity were afforded for ascertaining the opinions of the clergy by discussion in Convocation." In reference to this, the Bishop of Oxford took occasion to reply to some criticism "out of doors"; in order to show that Convocation meets and sits under the authority of the Crown, that there is nothing illegal or quasi-surreptitious in its sittings, and that the Crown could give Convocation nothing more than it present possesses except a licence to make canons, for which he did not ask. The Bishops of St. David's and St. Asaph concurred in these views, satisfied that Convocation is useful as a consulting body. The Archbishop of Canterbury said, that as long as the members of Convocation continue to be summoned in the solemn manner which is now the custom, he should not consider it within his province to discharge so ungracious a duty as to prorogue their sittings without giving full opportunity for the discussion of such matters as the members might consider needful for the interests of the Church. That is the reason why he has declined to put a summary end to the deliberations of Convocation. The Bishop of London, who came in late, objected to the paragraph quoted above; but the Archbishop remarked, that they had considered the subject all the morning, and it was rather late to offer objections. The address was agreed to.

In the Lower House, there was much discussion on a motion made by Dr. Milman, to present an address to the Queen praying that the services on the 5th November and the 30th May might be discontinued. The house appointed a committee to inquire into the authority appointing the services. A number of notices of motion were given. The house adjourned, after passing two paragraphs of the address.

In the Upper House on Saturday, the Address, as amended by the Lower House, was brought up, and the amendments, after discussion, were expunged. The Archbishop said that their lordships objected to

the paragraph recommending an extension of the episcopate, because they might hereafter be required specially to advise the Crown upon the subject. The amended address was agreed to by the Lower House, and Convocation prorogued till Wednesday, May 20.

In the Lower House on Saturday, the Rev. James Tindall, proctor for the diocese of Ely, presented a gravamen, praying that the service for the accession of her Majesty might be referred to the Occasional Services Committee, in order that it might be ascertained whether this service did not contravene the Act of Uniformity.—Agreed to. The Rev. J. Harding presented a gravamen complaining that the unbaptized clergy, though having the care of souls, were excluded from the right of voting for members of the Lower House of Convocation. This document was referred to the committee of gravamina, as was also another on the subject of presentations by churchwardens, so far as they related to notorious offenders. On the motion of the Rev. Sir H. Thompson a committee was appointed—

To consider the present construction of the Lower House of Convocation with a view to devise and recommend such alterations as in the judgment of such committee are rendered necessary by the changes of the times, and appear best calculated to secure for Convocation the confidence of the parochial clergy, laity, and of the Government.

The Rev. Canon Wordsworth then rose to move the following resolution, of which he had given notice on the previous day:—

That a committee of this house be appointed to consider the best means of obtaining the counsel and co-operation of the laity of the church, particularly at annual visitations or diocesan synods; and that the committee be desired to report to this house on the subject as soon as convenient; and also to frame the draught of a dutiful representation upon it from this house to his Grace the President and their lordships in the Upper House.

It would, he said, be remembered that at the close of the last Convocation the proctor of the diocese of Worcester (the Rev. Mr. Seymour), in a speech remarkable both for the exhaustive fulness of its matter and for the grace and felicity of its argument, proposed a committee to consider the best means of obtaining the assistance of the faithful laity of the Church in connection with the provincial synod of Canterbury. On that occasion the previous question was carried, on the ground that it was premature to entertain this subject. His present proposition was simply for a committee, and he had preferred that that committee should consider not whether the laity should be admitted to that provincial council of Canterbury, but whether we ought not to begin in our parishes and dioceses to make experiments in the rudiments of our ecclesiastical polity before tampering with what he considered one of the best inheritances of Englishmen, the convocation of this province. The annual visitations were properly diocesan synods, a fact to which witness was borne by the terms "sidesmen" and "synodals." (Hear, hear.) What he proposed was that the bishop or the archdeacon who visited for him—and there were in that house fifty-five archdeacons, who might at once carry out this suggestion—should select certain of the more intelligent laymen, in order, not that they should vote with the clergy, or even the clergy with the bishop, but that by God's Providence it might be ascertained what were the feelings, opinions, and judgment of both laity and clergy. The Archdeacon of St. Albans seconded the motion. At the suggestion of the Rev. J. Vincent, who thought that it would be undesirable to confine the investigations of this committee to "annual visitations or diocesan synods," the Rev. Canon Wordsworth consented to insert in his motion, after those words, the words "or in any other mode that may be judged expedient." The Rev. Mr. Seymour supported the motion, but could not concur in all that had fallen from Dr. Wordsworth in proposing it. He did not think that there would be any danger in giving to the faithful laity of the church a position in strict connection with that House of Convocation. Believing that the committee would not be precluded from considering some plan for the representation of the laity in that house, he should concur in this motion. Archdeacon Denison said that, having at his last visitation taken the sense of the clergy and laity throughout his archdeaconry, and having found that without exception the clergy and churchwardens were favourable to the holding of a meeting at which they might not deliberate so as to vote, but might take common consultation upon matters very nearly connected with the interests of the clergy and of the Church at large, he was now about to try the experiment, and he trusted that with God's blessing it might be attended with success. Archdeacon Harrison suggested that the committee should be appointed only to inquire and report, and that the consideration of the representation to the other house should follow upon that report. The Rev. Canon Wordsworth consented to omit from his resolution the words referring to the representation. The question was then put, and the motion of Canon Wordsworth was carried by a very large majority. The Prolocutor then declared the Convocation prorogued from that day until Wednesday, the 20th of May, on which day it would meet merely to be informed when her Majesty would receive the address.

THE MILTON CLUB.—A very numerous attendance of members of the club took place in the drawing-room, on Wednesday afternoon, at four o'clock. Mr. Henry Bateman presented, as chairman, a statement of the affairs of the institution. It appears that during the year there has been an addition of 149 members, and the feeling of the meeting evidently was, that nothing was wanting to secure the realisation of the hopes of the projectors, but a still further accession to the ranks of members from town and country. Mr. Thompson, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Ball, M.P., Mr. C. Reed, the Rev. J. E. Cullen, and other mem-

bers, took part in the conversation, which ended in a resolution of adjournment till after the meeting of debenture holders in June next, moved by the Rev. Andrew Reed, and carried unanimously.

ANTI-CHURCH-RATE VICTORIES.—The ratepayers of the parish of Ashley Suise, Bedfordshire, have refused a Church-rate by 104 to 66 votes. In the parish of Feering, Essex, a rate has also been refused at a vestry meeting.

Religious Intelligence.

REGENT'S-PARK CHAPEL.—On Tuesday evening, the annual *soirée* took place of the congregation assembling under the pastoral care of the Rev. W. Landels. Nearly 700 persons took tea in the school-rooms under the chapel. Afterwards they assembled in the chapel, where Sir S. Morton Peto, Bart., took the chair, and expressed his great gratification at the success which had in every respect attended the experiment of opening this place of worship. At the end of this, the second year of the existence of the cause, the congregation had been able to meet all the current expenses, and to show that they were able to go alone. He saw no reason, therefore, why he should any longer delay to put the chapel in trust on the terms that he had originally indicated—namely, that a moiety of the cost of erection should remain on mortgage. The alterations of the building had, indeed, cost much more than he had at first anticipated; but all this extra expense Lady Peto and himself would bear, and the congregation should only be burdened with a moiety of the sum first named. Mr. Landels supplemented this statement by saying, that, within little more than a year, the congregation had raised £1,939.; and he fully expected that next year they would do much more for general objects. The Church had only been formed a year ago, and now numbered 230 members, 111 having been added during the year, eighty-five of whom had been received on profession. They did not insist on baptism as a pre-requisite to Church membership. Mr. Baynes, the superintendent of the Sunday-schools, next gave a very encouraging account of the progress of the work in that department, and the meeting was afterwards addressed by Mr. Robert Lush, Mr. Thompson, Dr. Angus, and other gentlemen.

THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON AT THE SURREY MUSIC-HALL.—An extremely large audience was collected on Sunday morning, owing, doubtless, to the more genial state of the weather, to listen to the preaching of this popular minister. There could not be fewer than 8,000 or 9,000 persons present, amongst whom were the Earl of Carlisle, Earl Grey, the Marquis of Stafford, the Duchess of Sutherland, and other distinguished persons. The reverend gentleman preached an impressive sermon from the second chapter of Job, ninth verse, "Salvation is of the Lord."

THE REV. ALFRED GRIFFIN, co-pastor with the Rev. Chas. Winter, of Southminster, has resigned his co-pastorate, and intends to leave in the course of the summer.

CHRISTIAN LIBERALITY.—A merchant of Nottingham has signified his intention to give £360. a year, in order to increase the number of lay agents, or Scripture readers, who are labouring under the direction of the clergy in that place.

CHESHUNT, HERTS.—On Monday, May 11th, the work of pulling down the old chapel in Crossbrook-street commenced. It has many interesting associations as being the place in which Dr. Isaac Watts occasionally laboured, and of which the Rev. John Mason, M.A., author of "Self-Knowledge," was the stated minister. The church dates as far back as the time of the Protector, who sometimes attended its services. The new congregational church about to be built on the site, will be a gothic structure of the early decorated or geometrical period, with tower and spire, from the designs and under the superintendence of Messrs. Lander and Bedells, 4, Great James-street, Bedford-row.

THE REV. ALEXANDER WALLACE.—The Rev. Alexander Wallace, of Edinburgh, was on Thursday week inducted to the office of the ministry in East Campbell-street Second U.P. Church, Glasgow. The services on the occasion were conducted by the Rev. Messrs. Robertson and Blyth. In the evening there was a large and enthusiastic *soirée* held in the Trades' Hall, Olassford-street, which was crowded to excess. The Rev. Hamilton M. M'Gill occupied the chair, who said that Mr. Wallace had not come to Glasgow in order that he might obtain a larger stipend. He had given evidence that he could act from higher principles. When he (the chairman) was in Edinburgh, he learned a circumstance which must be interesting to those present, as it was honourable to Mr. Wallace. A gentleman connected with Mr. Wallace's congregation called on him one day, and offered him the sum of £1,000. for behoof of himself and family, to be used according to his wishes. This the gentleman did by way of acknowledgment for the benefit he had received under Mr. Wallace's ministry; but Mr. Wallace, instead of accepting it for his own use, in the most handsome manner recommended him to hand the £1,000. over to the congregation, by which they had been enabled to clear off the whole of the debt lying on the church. The chairman spoke in the highest terms of Mr. Wallace's character and abilities, noticing, especially, the peculiar qualification he possessed for labouring amid such a population as that in which his lot was now cast. After an address from the Rev. W. Reed, of Edinburgh, Mr. Osborne presented Mr. Wallace, on behalf of the ladies of the congregation, with a handsome pulpit gown, bible, and psalm book. The Rev. A. Wallace

next gave an exceedingly touching and appropriate address. The rev. gentleman expressed his hearty sympathy in the half-holiday and early closing movements, and every movement calculated to promote the interests of the working classes. He expressed, likewise, his determination to maintain those principles of abstinence which he had advocated, and, in place of lowering his temperance flag, to draw it, if possible, somewhat higher to the mast-head. After several other addresses, the interesting proceedings closed with the benediction. On the previous night (Wednesday) a *soirée*, on the occasion of Mr. Wallace's leaving Edinburgh, was held in Queen-street Hall in that city. During the evening, Mr. D. McLaren (a member of Mr. Wallace's late congregation), in a suitable address, presented that gentleman with an elegant time-piece, purchased by public subscription from W. C. Shaw, Glasgow, at a cost of about fifty guineas, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to the Rev. Alex. Wallace, by members of Potter-row U.P. Church, and other friends in Edinburgh, in token of their respect and esteem for him as a man and a minister, and in appreciation of his public-spirited efforts as a social reformer. Edinburgh, 29th April, 1857." A handsome walnut work-table (a present of the ladies of the congregation to Mrs. Wallace) was also presented by Mr. McLaren. After Mr. Wallace had acknowledged, in a feeling reply, the kindness evinced towards him by the members of his congregation, and the citizens generally, on that and other occasions, Mr. T. Knox, on behalf of the total abstinence society, presented the rev. gentleman with an address expressive of the high sense entertained by that body of the great services rendered by him to the cause of temperance in the city.

Correspondence.

BRITISH GUIANA.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.
SIR,—Although your columns are just now necessarily very crowded, yet I venture to solicit space to say a few words about the present government of British Guiana, and I do so now in the hope that during the May meetings they may awaken the attention of some of our influential philanthropists. Your readers will remember "the angel Gabriel," and the "Portuguese riots" in that "magnificent colony," and it is to proceedings that have grown out of these riots that I am anxious to secure a hearing. There is a governor and a Legislature in that colony. The present governor, the Hon. P. E. Wodehouse, appears to be perfectly incompetent to his work, and deservedly unpopular, except amongst the clique who are interested in keeping up the Hill Coolie slave trade. As for the "combined court, everyone knows it has all the corruption, and none of the talent of the closest pocket borough corporation. The governor and Legislature have recently passed a "registration ordinance," to "provide for the registration of the population of the colony, and for the payment of compensation to persons whose property MAY BE destroyed during riots," &c. That is providing for riots that are yet to come off. We suppose rioting must be the normal condition of yonder land of mud, mosquitoes, and misgovernment. The poll-tax, Sir, is two dollars every man, and one dollar every woman in the colony, levied on aged and young, on the healthy and the infirm, on the old leper and the merchant prince alike. The right reverend father in God, the Bishop of Guiana, pays precisely the same as that old Creole, hardly able, through elephantiasis, to hobble through the streets of George-town.

When the combined Court of Legislature met, April 3, his excellency the governor delivered a speech, in which he said that this measure, along with others, had "received the sanction of her Majesty's Government without qualification;" and added that, in executing the provisions of this ordinance, "the magistrates have exercised their extended powers with moderation and judgment, and I can state with truth, that in no single instance has even the attempt been made to establish against the public officers acts of oppression or injustice;" and farther on he adds that "they received instructions to administer the new law with forbearance and discretion, and to make all due allowance for any temporary or peculiar circumstances which might disable individuals from complying with it." So far the governor; and as it is by such documents English people are hoodwinked, I beg to give you an extract from a letter written by a gentleman who has resided twenty-three years in that wretched colony. I do not give his name publicly—I enclose it to you as a voucher for its authenticity. If he were living in a *free* country there would be no objection, but British Guiana, as I know by ill experience, is but one slight shade removed from "ole Virginny," and "the Southern States." He writes thus: "The operation of these new laws, the poll-tax ordinance especially, has made it very difficult for the poor of the land to refrain from cursing the ruler of the people. Honest and industrious people, who were simply guilty of poverty and could not manage to pay in a lump two dollars for self and one dollar for the 'ole ummin' were prosecuted and fined five, ten, twelve, and even fifteen dollars with costs [remember a dollar is 4s. 2d.], and as people who really could not pay three, could not *a fortiori* pay fifteen dollars, they were sent to work on the seadam—Sebastopol the people call it—for thirty days and two months. And it is a fact that numbers of them there got ill of cholera and never returned home. I know of four from this quarter who thus died, simply because in default of paying the poll-tax they were exposed to this labour; and many others who were so beaten by the Portuguese driver that they are not yet, and some never will be, what they were when they went to gaol. I had fully resolved not to trouble myself with political matters again, but I cannot help trying to get rid of this most unjust and grievous impost. Surely some M.P.'s at home can do us some service—can you advise?"

Now I know I am writing only about black people, but still let me be heard. In British Guiana nothing will be done. The only course open for action is, I think, that some independent member, say Charles Gilpin, Esq., should ask for returns from British Guiana touching the

working of this ordinance, and ask for a committee to inquire into the present condition of that continental colonial possession of ours in the West Indies. I have no hesitation in affirming, that owing to unjust and oppressive laws, framed purposely to tell heavily on the black man, the "head and front of all the offending," the condition of nine-tenths of the people was infinitely better during slavery than it is at the present time, and I would seriously propose that we rest awhile in our crusade against the slave states of America, till we have "tidied up a little bit" in British Guiana, Jamaica, &c.

This letter is already too long, but I am going to ask you for space for another, and only one other, because I want to say a few words to show how quietly the Coolie slave trade is going on in that delectable colony, and the sublime excitement created by Dr. Livingstone's explorations in Africa, which are "part of the accomplishment of the eternal decree of Providence, that no civilisation can take place in Africa without the people being brought to the West Indies—the only way to civilise those African savages is to bring them here." The speaker, the Hon. Vander Gon Netscher should have added, "and tame them by sending them to the seadam." Another African slave trade is on the tap in the British and free colony of Guiana on the coast of South America; Livingstone explores to find "niggers" to grow sugar and coffee for the men that have had twenty millions for no proven loss, resulting from emancipation! What will the Makololo and the Matabels say to that?

I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

W. G. BARRETT.

Cross-lane, Salford, May 9, 1857.

Anniversary Meetings.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

The first session of the annual meeting of the Congregational Union was held at New Broad-street Chapel yesterday morning; the Rev. Archibald Jack, of North Shields, in the chair. The attendance of ministers and delegates was quite as large as usual, and the galleries were thrown open to visitors. A number of college students also occupied seats in the galleries; but before the proceedings began, the Rev. George Smith, one of the secretaries, invited them to descend and mingle with the assembly.

A hymn having been sung, the Chairman read the 132nd Psalm and the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians; and the Rev. J. Alexander, of Norwich, offered prayer.

The CHAIRMAN then delivered an introductory address, which embraced a variety of topics bearing upon the faith and practice of the Congregational Churches, and made frequent reference to the recent doctrinal and personal controversies which have agitated the denomination. He called upon the brethren to show to those who were watching their movements, that despite all their differences, they had paramount principles which bound them together; that if they had not reached perfect sameness of sentiment in all things, those points in which they did think alike were vastly more in number and importance than those in which they differ. And he besought them more than ever to know nothing among men save Jesus Christ and him crucified, and to avoid, in temper and spirit, in word and deed, all that would be at variance with their characters as Christian men and Christian ministers. He felt painfully conscious that a root of bitterness had sprung up in the denomination, and that discordant elements had, temporally at least, impaired the unity of the Spirit and threatened entirely to rupture the bond of peace. He prayed and trusted, however, that the breach might now be healed and the stumbling-block removed. They had nothing to secure their adhesion as a Union but the power of principle and the strength of love. No light thing should be permitted to mar the peace and destroy the unity prevailing among them; and feeling should never be allowed to override principle. The greater their professed regard to Scriptural authority and usage, the more important was it that nothing in their practice should prove at variance with their profession. They had reason, therefore, to humble themselves before God on account of whatever may have given occasion to enemies to speak reproachfully, or to fellow-Christians to grieve and stand in doubt of them. (Hear, hear.) It was, however, a matter for rejoicing that without any denominational creed or confession, there existed in the Congregational body a larger amount of sound sentiment in reference to the doctrines of grace and salvation, with a larger amount of liberality as to what is merely circumstantial in opinions and practice, than was to be found in any other section of the Evangelical Church. The Congregational churches of this country had ever been distinguished by a simple and stern adherence to the doctrines of grace; and it would be an evil omen if the idea should become prevalent among the churches themselves, or be generally adopted by others, that in this respect there had been any genuine change. There was danger, however, lest their freedom from the trammels of a humanly-imposed creed should lead to latitudinarianism; and that such a departure from the truth should be thought to be in them less culpable than it would be in others whose faith had been fixed by some digest of human construction. But he contended that their refusal to submit to human creeds did not involve indifference to everything like systematic views of divine truth; and he did not look upon it as a favourable symptom of the day that a disposition was manifested by many to work out everything for themselves on their own authority; humbler minds were not ashamed to avail themselves of acquisitions which had come down to them from former ages. (Hear, hear.) In theology there had been giants before our time. We might know somewhat more than our fathers in certain comparatively

small matters, but in acquaintance with the mind and will of God, and in veneration for His authority, they were not behind the very chiefest intellects of the present day. He earnestly besought his brethren in the ministry not to be led away by the false idea that literature, science, or art could in any case prove a substitute for the gospel. By this alone would the moral diseases of men be ever effectually cured. Sin could not be charmed away from the conscience by human opiates of any kind. Even the attempts which had been made to make evangelical truth more palatable to men, by presenting it in a tasteful dress, had, he believed, in general, produced a directly opposite effect. (Hear, hear.) The Chairman reverted to the subject of "the controversy," and quoted the resolution adopted by the assembly at its special meeting in January, declaring that the Congregational body, as a body, is sound in the faith. The honesty of this resolution, he said, had been questioned, but he recalled it for the purpose of re-asserting its truth, and the assembly greeted the declaration with cheers. He was entirely convinced, moreover, that their ministers did not preach one thing while they thought another, as some had said, and which other they would preach if they dare. (Hear, hear.) He trusted the allegation was false—(cheers)—and that there was not a man amongst them who would play fast and loose with truth and conscience. (Cheers.) Of course there would be various modes of presenting truth, both in form and expression; and this was in no wise to be condemned, providing the words used expressed the great truths of salvation so plainly, that there was no danger of the hearers being bewildered; for the gospel, like the sun, could be seen only in its own light. He touched upon the question of inspiration for the purpose of denouncing the notion that men of genius are inspired in the same way as Isaiah and Paul; and that Jesus Christ stood on the same level with Socrates and Plato. The Chairman concluded by calling upon each of the brethren to endeavour individually to remove from the Union every cause of hostility and coldness, and to make it a more united and useful body than it had ever been in the past years of its existence.

The Rev. Dr. VAUGHAN proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman for the address, accompanied by the usual request for its publication; and in doing this, he guarded himself from being supposed to endorse every sentiment it contained; but said that, with the substance of the "simple, devout, and apostolic address" he fully sympathised. He liked the tone of the address, for he could not dislodge from his mind the memory of the thought that God's church had now been in this world as an inquirer and thinker for six thousand years, with God's word and God's Spirit helping her to inquire and think; and when he called this to mind he must conclude that God's Church has, by this time of day, settled something. (Hear, hear.) He could not believe that it was left to us to start *de novo* in relation to the mind and will of God. But there was always special work for every age; and some particular phase of truth characterised each period of the church's history. He was not sorry that the chairman had referred so distinctly as he had done to the need of exercising charity one toward another. The differences that prevailed amongst them consisted not so much in the truth itself, as in the mode of looking at it. (Hear, hear.) God had given to their denomination in the present day a breadth of ground to occupy in this country, with numbers, culture, wealth, and power of organisation for action, that had made them something very different from what they were even within his own memory; and he could not but think that God was putting Congregationalism to a certain extent upon its trial, as to whether they were competent to hold their liberty in the exercise of sufficient discretion and sufficient Christian charity and candour to deal with some shades of difference as to the lights and aspects of Christian truth. The culture of the day must find its way into the churches, and have a considerable influence upon their members. There were minds that must look at truth in particular aspects, in order to receive any impression therefrom; and we ought not to be displeased because all men could not see truth from one position, and in one uniform aspect. (Hear, hear.) He was very far from meaning to say that it was a light thing for a man to seem to put the great distinctive doctrines of the gospel out of their place and proportion. (Hear.) He could not conceive anything more mischievous, so far as regards the great mass of mankind, than to do this. But, again he said, they must exercise Christian charity and concede to others what they desired to have extended to themselves. His impression was, that the Churches had nothing to fear from modern philosophy and literature, so long as it was a genuine philosophy and a real literature, and not a wishey-washy dillitanti thing. (Hear, hear.) Ministers must learn how to be simple, and to dare to afford to be simple. He wished exceedingly that all culture of our time was such as to make the public teacher, and not to spoil him. (Hear, hear.) With respect to Congregationalism as a conservator of evangelical truth, Dr. Vaughan expressed the conviction that they were liable greatly to over-rate it, and he entered into the history of the Congregational Churches both of England and America, in illustration of his conviction; but at the same time he regarded Congregational principles to be in advance of their professors, and longed for the day when they should be better understood and more worthily carried out.

The Rev. JOHN STOWTON seconded the resolution. He fully agreed with what Dr. Vaughan had said of the address, and admired the simplicity and apostolical spirit which it displayed. He was always anxious to distinguish between Congregational prin-

ciples and the working of the system; which in many instances was not such as they could congratulate themselves upon; because it depended to so large an extent upon the wisdom and temper of its administrators.

The resolution was cordially adopted, and the chairman briefly acknowledged the vote.

The Rev. GEORGE SMITH read the annual report, which, after a brief tribute of honour to the late Dr. Harris, stated the steps which the committee had taken for the abolition of Church-rates, the amendment of the law of marriage, and the law relating to chapel and school trust property. Reference was also made to the visit of the Rev. E. T. Pratt to a meeting of continental pastors; and to the arrival in England of the Rev. J. L. Poore, from Australia, and the purpose of his visit, which was warmly commended to the Christian public of England. The Hymn Book Committee had met seventy-one times since its constitution in May, 1855, and had completed the Psalms, and the Hymns were ready for a last revision. The *Congregational Year Book* had obtained a sale of 4,500 copies, but it was published at a loss and must either be reduced in size or increased in price. The profits on the *Christian Witness* and *Christian's Penny Magazine* for the year amounted to 408*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*; and the donations being added this fund amounted to 657*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* On the previous day 335*l.* had been distributed to forty-four aged brethren and for the relieving of special cases. The total sum now voted from this fund was 5,292*l.*, and 8,000*l.* was invested in Government securities. The income of the Union for the year was 203*l.*, and the expenses 427*l.*

The Rev. Dr. RAFFLES, in a brief playful speech, moved the adoption of the report. Those matters which had ruffled the serenity and disturbed the calm of the body of late he had no disposition to touch. He rejoiced that he knew but little about them, and wished to hear no more. His earnest hope and prayer was, that the Union would survive all its troubles, and increase in strength and usefulness.

Mr. EDWARD BAINES seconded the resolution, and spoke of the wisdom and prudence which had been displayed by the committee during the season of difficulty through which the Union had passed.

The report was then adopted.

The Rev. G. SMITH next introduced Mr. Poore, as the representative of the Congregational Unions of Victoria and of South Australia, and Mr. Poore, who was very warmly cheered, made a brief statement of the purpose of his visit to England.

The Rev. THOMAS DAVIS, of Preston, moved the appointment of the committee of the Union for the ensuing year; and the names of the gentlemen having been read,

Dr. BROWN, of Cheltenham, seconded the motion.

The Rev. R. MACBETH, of Hammersmith, amidst much confusion and many interruptions, proposed the withdrawal, from the list of committee-men, of the name of the Rev. Dr. Campbell, on account of the peculiar mission which he had undertaken as a public man, and because several of the names of gentlemen formerly on the committee, opposed to Dr. Campbell, had been removed.

Dr. BROWN said that as the amendment had not been submitted to the preliminary business meeting, Mr. Macbeth was out of order.

The CHAIRMAN ruled that this was so.

Mr. MACBETH protested that he had a perfect right to do as he had done, and a long and noisy discussion ensued.

The Rev. G. SMITH, read the law applying to the case, from which it appeared that no new business could be introduced without notice. He said, also, that it was altogether false to suppose any gentleman had been removed from the committee on account of his views on controversial questions, but simply for non-attendance.

Mr. MACBETH, thereupon contended that this was not new business, and appealed to the meeting whether he had not a right to be heard.

The Rev. G. SMITH said that Mr. Macbeth was present at the preliminary meeting, and did not object to the name of Dr. Campbell when it was read out; and, therefore, he was not now entitled to be heard.

Mr. SAMUEL MORLEY, while differing entirely from the object of Mr. Macbeth, thought he was in order, and had a perfect right to move the omission or insertion of any number of names.

The Rev. T. DAVIS, the proposer of the committee, advised Mr. Macbeth not to press his amendment. He was not on Dr. Campbell's side himself, but he desired the Union not to be broken up or split in two; and as Dr. Campbell, moreover, did represent a large party in the Union, there was certainly a propriety in his being retained upon the committee.

The Rev. J. G. ROGERS, of Ashton-under-Lyne, contended that Mr. Macbeth had a right to propose his amendment.

The Rev. T. JAMES, as a member of the Committee of the Union from its commencement, said that undoubtedly any gentleman in this assembly had a right to move an amendment to every motion submitted to it; but he did not admire the taste of a gentleman who, having been at the preliminary meeting and remained silent, now came here with his objections. (Hear, and uproar.)

The Rev. THOMAS BINNEY strongly advised Mr. Macbeth to withdraw his amendment and retire satisfied with his protest.

Mr. H. BATMAN called upon the Chairman to recall his ruling. He for one could not consent to give up the liberties of the assembly to the preliminary meeting.

Dr. MASSIE hoped that Mr. Macbeth would propose the omission of Dr. Campbell's name.

At this point Mr. MACBETH again endeavoured to get a hearing, and persevered in spite of much uproar and cries of "time."

The Rev. Dr. TIDMAN at length interposed, and said that Mr. Macbeth had a right to object to A, B, or C; but he was going into business upon which the Union had repeatedly declared it would not again enter. (Hear, and cheers.) He was exceedingly grieved that Dr. Massie should have expressed such an opinion as that which had just fallen from him.

Mr. MACBETH once more endeavoured to proceed, but finding he could not, he left the platform.

The question of his right to be heard was further discussed, however, by Dr. Vaughan, Mr. Salisbury, M.P., the Rev. Mr. Bruce, of Huddersfield, and other gentlemen. At length the resolution was put and carried without a dissentient voice.

The Rev. G. SMITH then read the report of the Special Committee appointed to consider the separation of the magazines and the affiliated societies from the Union. The resolution to which the committee came, was to advise the transference of the magazines to a body of forty-eight trustees, half laymen, but the retention of the societies in their present relation to the Union.

Upon this report a protracted discussion took place in which Mr. E. Swaine, Rev. Mr. Bruce, Rev. J. G. Rogers, Rev. J. Haydon, Rev. J. Parsons, Rev. W. J. Richardson, Rev. A. Reed, Rev. H. Madgin, Rev. J. Corbin, Dr. Vaughan, Mr. Bateman, Dr. Tidman, Rev. E. Conder, Dr. Burder, Dr. Brown, Mr. T. G. Flint and others, took part. The chief point of controversy was raised by the Rev. T. Davis, who opposed the separation of the magazines from the Union, and advocated the removal of Dr. Campbell from the editorship. He moved an amendment to this effect, but, as no one seconded it, it fell to the ground. Another point was whether the report should be adopted as a whole, or in two parts. The assembly ultimately decided on the motion of the Rev. James Parsons, seconded by the Rev. H. Adiscott, to adopt the first part of the report relating to the magazines, and to defer the other till the meeting on Friday.

The Rev. G. SMITH proposed, and the Rev. JOHN SNOOKERON seconded, the appointment of Dr. Alliott to the Presidency of the Union for the year 1858; and it was unanimously agreed to.

It was also agreed that the autumnal meeting of the Union be held at Cheltenham.

The Rev. G. SMITH proposed, in a warm-hearted speech, the thanks of the assembly to Dr. Campbell, for his lengthened, earnest, and efficient services as editor of the magazines.

The Rev. T. SCALES seconded the motion.

Dr. ALLIOTT supported it, because he thought it to be deserved, although, in the matters to which reference had been made, he was not on the side of Dr. Campbell.

The Rev. J. BALDWIN BROWN wished it to be clearly understood that the resolution did not imply any approval of Dr. Campbell's conduct in regard to recent transactions. As the editor of the magazines, Dr. Campbell deserved their thanks.

The resolution was unanimously and cordially adopted.

Dr. CAMPBELL rose amid much applause to return thanks for the vote. Conceding that liberty to others which he claimed for himself, he had nothing to say then on any other subject but that of thanks. He thanked the Union for creating the magazines, and giving him the opportunity to be useful to the denomination and to the world; he thanked them, also, for conceding to his request to separate them from the Union, now they were able to stand by themselves; and he thanked them still further for the prospective help which he was sure they would give in the circulation of the periodicals. Large, and at one time unprecedented as the sale of the magazines had been, he had a conviction that under the new arrangement now to take effect they would double their present circulation.

The Doxology having been sung, the assembly adjourned to Radley's Hotel to dinner.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.—The annual public meeting of the members of the Sunday School Union was held at Exeter Hall on Thursday evening, at six o'clock. The large upper room was densely crowded in every part. The Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P., upon taking the chair, observed that it was cheering to find and cheering to know that, while politicians were talking about national systems of education, the Sunday School Union was, at all events, working in this great cause; and, whatever might be the issue in a political sense, it was a glorious fact that Sunday after Sunday the Union was gathering together those children who would be without instruction and without knowledge. The report, which was read by Mr. Watson, the secretary, took a review of the extension of the Sunday School system in Paris, the United States, India, South Australia, and the West Indies. It was in substance the same as that read at the meeting of members at the Jubilee-buildings, Old Bailey, of which we gave a detailed account in last week's impression. The meeting was addressed by Mr. T. Chambers, the Common Serjeant, the Rev. A. M. Henderson, the Rev. R. Maguire, incumbent of Clerkenwell, Rev. H. Madgin, of Tiverton, Rev. J. P. Chown, of Bradford, Rev. Dr. Leak, of Ware, E. Ball, Esq., M.P., and Rev. W. Dendy, of Jamaica.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The fifty-eighth anniversary of this society was held on Tuesday at Exeter Hall. As usual there was a very full attendance, the body of the hall, platform, and galleries being

crowded to excess. The Earl of Chichester presided, and on the platform were—the Earl of Cavan, the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Winchester, the Bishop of Carlisle, the Bishop (elect) of Norwich, the Bishop of Victoria, the Dean of Carlisle, the Bishop of Rupert's Island, the Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P., Dr. Livingstone, &c. The Rev. John Venn, the secretary, read the report, which commenced by referring to the financial position of the society, of which the following is an abstract:—Income.—General Fund: Associations, benefactions, legacies, &c., 114,554l. 8s. 11d.; deficiency fund, 6,900l. 6s. 6d.; fund for disabled missionaries, &c., 1,719l. 17s. 4d.; total received in the United Kingdom, 123,174l. 12s. 9d. Expenditure.—On account of the general expenses of the society at home and abroad, 113,842l. 13s. 3d.; on account of disabled missionaries, &c., 5,015l. 2s. 5d.; total expenditure, 118,657l. 15s. 8d.; add balance of last year, 6,493l. 6s. 7d.; total, 125,151l. 2s. 3d.; excess over income, 1,976l. 9s. 6d. Local funds raised in the missions, and expended upon the operations of the society, but independently of the general fund, last year, 12,574l. 14s. 10d. This year's accounts have not yet been received. At Sierra Leone there were 2,000 communicants supporting their own schools, with 4,500 scholars. The committee were looking out for two missionaries suitable for the Turkish field, and they intended to translate some useful works into the Turkish language. Great efforts were being made to educate the rising youth of India, and to train native teachers. There were great prospects of success from the efforts of the missionaries at Peshawur. In China the work of the missionaries had not yet been interrupted by the unhappy proceedings at Canton, as that work was chiefly carried on in the more northerly districts. The great obstacle, however, with which the missionaries had to contend was the abominable opium traffic. With respect to New Zealand, Mr. Monsell, a missionary, had translated the Bible into the language of the natives, and it was stated as an encouraging circumstance that the New Zealanders were now less addicted than formerly to the use of ardent spirits. The report concluded by announcing the gratifying fact that a devoted friend of the missionary cause had given the munificent sum of 10,000l. for the extension of the labours of the society, in addition to a sum in the funds equivalent to an annual subscription of 1,000l. for three years and a half. The society has now 131 stations in various parts of the world. The total number of clergymen (European and native) in connection with the society is 218. In addition to these there are engaged in the work of the society 38 European laymen, 12 European female teachers (exclusive of missionaries' wives), and 1,872 native and country-born catechists and teachers of all classes. Number of communicants—1853, 16,772; 1854, 17,124; 1855, 17,909; 1856, 18,730; 1857, 18,724. Amongst the speakers were the Bishop of London, the Dean of Carlisle, the Rev. R. Clark, missionary from Peshawur, the Rev. J. A. Jetter, and the Bishop of Rupert's Island. The Bishop of Victoria moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting, while it would express its deep concern at the late manifestation of a fanatical and sanguinary spirit amongst the revolutionary party in China, and also at the infraction of peace at Canton, as well as the late events in Turkey and Persia, would, nevertheless, remember that the God of nations has often, in the history of missions, overruled the darkest providences for the furtherance of His truth, and would cherish the hope that He will yet cause the late wide dissemination of His holy word in those countries to bear fruit, and make the wrath of men and the diplomacy of Governments subservient to the entrance of Gospel light.

In supporting the resolution, the right rev. prelate adverted to the present state of affairs in China, and strenuously defended the course adopted by Sir J. Bowring:—It appeared to him (the bishop) that England had a mission to fulfil in extending commerce, civilisation, and Christianity, and it was utterly impossible that she could do so without occasionally adopting severe measures. Sir John Bowring went out to China, he believed, with the intention of pursuing a pacific policy, and with a desire to improve the condition of the Chinese as far as possible. Therefore, he felt convinced that Sir John Bowring ought not to be blamed for what had recently occurred in China. Lord Dalhousie and Lord Canning went to India with the fixed determination of preserving peaceful relations, but circumstances compelled them to deviate from the course they had previously determined upon; and so it would frequently be, while England was fulfilling her mission.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—The fifty-third annual meeting of the supporters of this society was held at Exeter Hall on Wednesday morning. The Earl of Shaftesbury presided. The report, which was read by the Rev. S. P. Bergne, the secretary, gave a detailed account of the operations of the society at home and in the several countries in which its agents are employed, with the following general results: Issues of the society last year from the depository at home, 1,001,965 copies; from the depots abroad, 515,893 copies; total, 1,517,858, being an increase of 43,464 copies over the circulation of any preceding year. This total would have been greater had the return of the Chinese distribution been complete, and if it had included the issues of the affiliated Indian societies. The issues from the commencement of the society amount to 32,381,759 copies of the Bible, the New Testament, and portions of the New Testament. Among the special facts recorded it was stated that a short time since a large quantity of copies of the Scriptures was sent to St. Petersburg, the duty amounting to 413l., which the Emperor, on application, readily remitted; and that in Turkey, a copy having been presented to the Sultan by an agent of the society, his Majesty had ordered portions of it to be read to him every day. With reference to China, the report expressed a hope

that the present hostilities would lead to a more extended opening in that country for the diffusion of the word of God. The receipts for the year ending the 31st of March have exceeded those of any preceding year (excluding the special funds). The amount applicable to the general purposes of the society is 68,391l. 15s. 3d., and the amount received for Bibles and Testaments, 69,374l. 19s. 8d.; making the total receipts from the ordinary sources of income 137,756l. 14s. 11d., being 9,031l. 4s. 10d. more than in any former year. To the above must be added the sum of 993l. 2s. 4d. for the Chinese New Testament Fund, making a grand total of 138,749l. 17s. 3d. The ordinary payments have amounted to 132,094l. 4s. 7d., and the payments on account of the Jubilee and Chinese New Testament Funds to 6,890l. 18s. 10d.; making the total expenditure of the year amount to 138,985l. 3s. 5d. It was also stated in the report that the Bishops of London, Gloucester and Bristol, and Ripon had accepted the office of vice-presidents of the society. In moving the adoption of the report the Bishop of London alluded to his appointment as one of the vice-presidents. It was a great satisfaction to him to be thus honoured. It would be a satisfaction to him under any circumstances to receive such an honour at the hands of so large a body of Christians; but he had a peculiar satisfaction for himself, and he wished to take that opportunity of publicly stating it, in being so honoured by a body which consisted of others than the members of the Church of England. (Applause.) They were brought together continually, as members of the Church of England, labouring in their sphere day after day, but the occasions were not many in which they were able to meet their brother Christians of other bodies, to help them, as the latter had helped the Church in the cause of Christ. (Applause.) They might, perhaps, from being confined to those who so perfectly agreed with themselves, be apt to magnify the points of difference between themselves and others. For himself, it had been his happiness throughout life to be able to co-operate in many great and important works, in the smaller sphere in which he had laboured, with persons who had differed from him most materially. There were points of agreement which were far greater than their points of difference—(applause)—and, if there were nothing else to recommend the Bible Society to him as an individual, it would be that it gave him an opportunity of joining heart and hand with so many persons from whom otherwise he was much separated. (Applause.) The meeting was also addressed by the Bishop of Winchester, the Rev. Newman Hall, the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel, the Bishop of Rupert's Island, the Rev. Dr. Angus (Baptist), the Dean of Carlisle; Dr. Kirk, deputy from the American Bible Society; Bishop Smith, of Kentucky; the Rev. Mr. Shaw, of Cape Town; the Rev. Dr. Pearson, of Belgium; the Rev. J. Cunningham, of Harrow; the Rev. Dr. Raffles, and Mr. Farmer.

THE LONDON CITY MISSION.—On Thursday morning the annual meeting of this society was held in Exeter-hall, the large room of which was crowded. Mr. John Plumptre occupied the chair, and on the platform were Mr. R. C. L. Bevan, Mr. G. Hitchcock, the Hon. and Rev. B. Noel, T. Chambers, Lord Charles Russell, the Revs. Latrobe, Christopherson, Dukes, Vardy, and Robinson. The report for the last year stated that the number of missionaries had been increased by nineteen, and now numbered 339. The receipts had decreased by the amount of 1,704l. 18s. 3d. The receipts of the last year had been 30,693l. 12s. 11d., and in addition 269l. 1s. 6d. had been received for the disabled missionaries. In every previous year, except 1840, the receipts of the missions had increased. The associations in the country numbered 300. The returns of the missionaries showed an increase in their districts of fallen women during one year of 1,035. The number of Roman Catholic families of a visitable rank resident within the district of the missionaries amounted to 19,479. Of these the missionaries had free access to 15,140. The gospel was thus made known by the society month after month, with all fidelity, to about 80,000 Romanists, which was more than half the population of Rome itself. The number of Jewish families was 2,292, of which the missionaries had free access to 962. There were 2,609 professedly infidel families in the district, of which free access was obtained to 2,194. The number of persons living improperly together reported by the missionaries was larger than ever, amounting to 558. All of these had been persuaded to be married, while others have been induced to separate. The visits paid by the missionaries last year were 1,528,162, the largest number yet reported in any year. Of these, 177,443 were to the sick and dying. The readings of Scripture were 478,049, also an increase. The number of tracts distributed was 2,109,375. The ordinary in-door meetings for prayer and exposition were 22,192, at which the average attendance was 26, and the gross attendance 580,063. In workhouses 3,087 meetings were held, the gross attendance being 130,775; in penitentiaries 694 meetings, gross attendance 38,815; and in factories and lodging-houses the number of meetings was 1,325, gross attendance 60,606. Open air meetings 2,770, gross attendance 226,668. 11,273 children had been sent to school, 148 shops had been closed through the efforts of the missionaries; 650 drunkards, and 578 fallen females had been reclaimed. In the districts of the missionaries 50 penny banks exist, with 14,326 depositors. On the motion of Lord Charles Russell, the report was adopted, and the meeting having been addressed by T. Chambers, Esq., the Hon. and Rev. J. T. Felham, Bishop designate of Norwich, the Rev. J. Patterson, Rector of Spitalfields, and the Rev. H. Christopherson, of New College Chapel, the proceedings terminated.

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Council of the Liberation Society met on Wednesday last, May 6th, at the Milton Club, and was numerously attended; in fact, it was, we believe, the largest Council Meeting which has yet been held. The names of many of the gentlemen present will be found in our report of the proceedings; and there were also in attendance Mr. Gilpin, M.P., Rev. Henry Richard, Rev. Clement Dukes, Rev. Francis Wills, Rev. J. P. Chown (of Bradford), Rev. Henry Solly, Rev. S. S. Dobson (of Yarmouth), Rev. Jno. Pye (of Devonport), Rev. F. Neller, Rev. Basil Cooper, Rev. F. Leonard (of Ross), Rev. I. V. Mumford, Rev. J. Harcourt, Rev. G. S. Ingram, Rev. T. Morris (of Whitchurch), Rev. E. S. Fryce, Messrs. Templeton, Skeats, C. Miall, Baker (of Andover), Belsey (of Rochester), Smith (of Margate), Sission (of Hull), T. G. Grundy (of Hastings), Sheares, Merrington, L. Grundy (of Luton), Stafford Allen, T. Grundy (of Northampton), Brown (of Earth, Hants), Barry (of Brill), Cockshaw, Adams (of Plymouth), J. Barrett, Heaton, Nathan, Thomas (of Fairford), Joseph Brown, and Elt.

W.M. EDWARDS, Esq., the society's treasurer, took the chair at one o'clock, and opened the business of the day by briefly referring to the course of action in which the society had been engaged during the past year, which had been a more than usually eventful one. After referring to the visit of a deputation to Scotland, the change in the society's collectorship, and the extended circulation of the *Liberator*, which kept their friends well informed of what was going on, he referred to the late dissolution, by which their Parliamentary plans had been disarranged. They had thrown all their strength into the general election and the chairman and secretary of the electoral committee had had heavy work. If the result had not been, in some personal respects, all that they could have wished, they must remember that in carrying on such a work clouds, as well as sunshine, must be looked for, and that even their friends who had not been returned to the House of Commons might render them service elsewhere, from the fact that they were released from their vigils at St. Stephen's. The receipts of the society had not been quite so large as usual, owing to the elections having come in to occupy the time and attention of their friends in the country just at the time when the subscriptions were usually collected; and even when all arrears were paid up, there would still be a deficiency, for a full staff had been kept actively employed, and the gratuitous circulation of their publications had been increased, in accordance with the recommendation of the last conference. They needed more pecuniary help, and he believed it would be cheerfully rendered. Their present position was, on the whole, he thought, very encouraging. (Cheers.) He then called on

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS, the general secretary, to read the report of the executive committee, which has already appeared in our columns.

MR. WILLIAMS also read the treasurer's statement, from which it appeared that the receipts for the year had been 2,684*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*; and the expenditure 2,619*l.* 14*s.*; leaving a balance of 64*l.* 10*s.* at present in hand.

MR. ROBINSON, of Bristol, then moved the first resolution:—

That the report of the executive committee be received and adopted; the council expressing hearty satisfaction at the growing influence exerted by the society, and at the indications afforded by numerous public events, that its principles are rapidly advancing in public estimation.

He said that he thought it discreditable that a society having for its object the removal of so great an anomaly as the Irish Establishment, and such a cause of heartburning and ill-will as the connection of Church and State in England, should have so small an income as 2,600*l.* He thought the report showed the value of operations against the State-Church system carried on in detail. In his own neighbourhood, where a Church-rate had just been defeated, the people were delighted at learning, for the first time, that such a society existed; and he thought it desirable that a tract should be written for such places, so that while men's minds were in a malleable state, they might be made to feel that consistency required them to go beyond opposition to a Church-rate. (Hear, hear.) This was the more important because, as he thought, they were about to lose the Church-rate grievance, which was a tangible evidence of the bad working of the Establishment principle, whereas the endowments of the Church were like sunken rocks, often doing great mischief without being seen. (Hear.)

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. H. RICHARD, and carried unanimously.

The second resolution, confirming the appointment of Mr. Potto Brown, of Houghton, Huntingdonshire, and Dr. Angus, as members of the executive committee, instead of Mr. Kershaw, M.P., and Dr. Harris, deceased, was moved by Mr. Crellin, of London, seconded by Mr. Unwin, of Colchester, and carried unanimously.

MR. EDWARD SWAINE then moved:—

That the council rejoices at the prominence given at the late general election to questions affecting the interests of religious liberty, at the firmness with which they were pressed upon candidates, and at the number of new members who may be expected to support the society's Parliamentary policy. That it congratulates the society's friends on these fruits of its activity, and expresses gratitude to the electoral committee, to whose labours it believes these results to be largely attributable. That it at the same time urges the importance of such vigilance and resoluteness as will secure a fulfilment of electoral pledges, and obtain from the new Parliament satisfactory measures of ecclesiastical reform.

He thought they had great reason to congratulate

themselves on their gains—(cheers)—and were indebted to their electoral chairman and secretary. He urged the necessity of seeing that the pledges given by the successful candidates were kept. He also said he thought it most desirable that they should take every opportunity of letting others know that they only sought religious liberty as a part of civil liberty, and that they asked for it on the same grounds as they asked for liberty of trade, liberty of speech, and the liberty of the press. (Hear.)

MR. BONTEMPS, who seconded the motion, bore testimony to the zeal and fidelity of their friends in some of the constituencies.

MR. BOWSER would be very sorry to destroy the harmonious feeling of the meeting, but he complained of the conduct of the electoral committee in the Tower Hamlets. The loss of Sir W. Clay was, he thought, owing to their indifference.

MR. CHARLES REED thought the committee had done properly in not interfering in that election. (Cheers.) Sir W. Clay himself now felt that he owed the loss of his seat to his own too great security. But he must express surprise at the course which had been taken in the city of London. After having, on a former occasion, insisted that no Anti-State-Churchmen could on any account support Lord John Russell, he had been thoroughly staggered to find this society maintaining silence, if not recommending and supporting him. Lord John Russell was opposed to them on the question of Church-rates and voluntary education; and there was no man, in fact, from whom Dissenters had so little to hope.

MR. HARE corroborated Mr. Reed's statement as to the cause of the loss of Sir Wm. Clay's seat. Some of Sir William's friends had complained that they saw and heard nothing of him from one election to another.

Rev. J. KENNEDY put in a good word for Mr. Butler, who had been referred to, and said that he always wrote to that gentleman when ecclesiastical questions were coming on—(hear)—and always had satisfactory replies, which were followed by satisfactory votes.

MR. CRELLIN was about to make some observations when

MR. MIALL rose to deprecate the continuance of these discussions as to the merits of persons, and as to individual cases, which could lead to no useful or good result. The council should confine itself to the discussion of general principles of action. (Hear, hear.)

The meeting acquiesced; and the resolution was accordingly put and carried by acclamation.

MR. S. MORLEY, in responding to the resolution, said that, while in individual cases they had very grievous losses, the balance was in their favour—(hear, hear)—and they might hope to repair some of their losses in a few weeks. With respect to the electoral committee, more credit was due to others than to himself. With regard to his own conduct, he had supported Lord John Russell from a deep conviction that their cause would be immeasurably strengthened by Lord Palmerston being made to feel that, if he did not do something, there was somebody at his back who would do it; and that the country need not have to feel as if, after Lord Palmerston, must come the deluge. (Cheers.) In reference to what his friend Mr. Reed had urged, he must admit that Lord John's shortcomings were most grievous, and he had not failed to tell him so, but now they must do what they could to bring him up to the old mark. The Dissenters' Electoral Committee of 1847 had strongly opposed Lord John Russell, but he was not aware that this society had ever expressed any opinion with regard to him.

MR. REED had not impugned motives in any case, but thought the society might suffer from the appearance of a great misunderstanding.

The Rev. J. H. HINTON then moved:—

That the council deeply regrets the absence from the new Parliament of several gentlemen to whom it is specially indebted for past Parliamentary services. That it has the satisfaction of believing that their exclusion is attributable to other causes than their advocacy of the society's views, while it indulges in the anticipation that at an early period they will again occupy seats in the House of Commons.

He would only add four words, and say, "The sooner the better." (Laughter.)

MR. A. SOMERVILLE, of Bitton, near Bristol, seconded it, and it was carried *nem. con.*

MR. THOMAS BARNES, late M.P. for Bolton, thanked the meeting for passing such a resolution; and, referring to the Rochdale election, said, he trusted he was right in supposing that a petition against Sir A. Ramsay's return would be presented, and, if successful, it would do great good. The people of Lancashire could not understand the idea of any but a Radical being chosen for Rochdale.

MR. MIALL said, such a petition would be presented, but, if successful, the only result would be another election for that borough.

Rev. C. J. MIDDLEDITCH, late of Frome, and now Secretary of the Baptist Irish Society, moved:—

That the council desires to put on record its sense of the ability and practical wisdom with which the proposal to disendow all religious bodies in Ireland was submitted to the House of Commons by Mr. Miall in May last; that it derives great encouragement from the reception given to his motion, for which it anticipates a continually increasing amount of Parliamentary and of popular support.

He said there could be no difference of opinion as to the ability and practical wisdom with which Mr. Miall had introduced the subject of the Irish Church to the notice of the House of Commons; and one of the most convincing proofs of the weight and effect of his speech was to be found, not in the number of members who had followed him into the same lobby, but in the impression which it had made on those who went into the opposite lobby. Major Boyle

was one of these; and, in conversing with him lately, he said, "As to Maynooth, the Irish party in the house are so strong, that, no matter who may be in power, Mr. Spooner's motion will not be carried. If Lord Derby were in power, it would not be brought forward." "But what about Mr. Miall's motion?" he asked. "Oh," said Major Boyle, "there's a principle in that, that will be brought forward." (Cheers.) He also would remind them that there was a large party who were for dis-establishment, but not for disendowment. The well-known Rev. Mr. Bennett, of Frome, had told Lord Edward Thynne, the brother of the very Marquis of Bath through whom he obtained his living, that he could not give him his vote if he would not support the separation of Church and State.

MR. CUNNINGTON having seconded the motion and stated that he regarded Mr. Miall's proposal as one involving a great principle of justice, the resolution was carried; on which

MR. MIALL thanked the meeting for passing the resolution, which he had not anticipated. He said he thought the good effect of stating the principles of this association in the house in the special form he had, was, that their opponents had been convinced that the objects they had in view were really national objects, and not at all sectarian—not for the exclusive advantage of themselves. And this might give them a lesson as to the way in which they should always treat this question. In the present short session of Parliament, he thought it would not be worth while to introduce the question of the Irish Church, but next year it must be brought forward, whether he were in the house or not, and they must thoroughly prepare themselves in the meanwhile. He looked upon the motion with feelings of paternity, and though he should be sorry to see it in other hands, it must not be kept back for him, for he believed that it would soon become one of the great questions of day. (Cheers.)

MR. RICHARDSON, of Long Sutton, moved:—

That the Council recognises with pleasure the prevalence of the conviction that the abolition of Church-rates cannot longer be delayed by the Legislature. It warmly acknowledges the exertions of Sir Wm. Clay on behalf of the bill for effecting that object; and, while deeply regretting the necessity for placing it in other hands, confidently believes that, by wise and vigorous action, it may shortly be placed upon the Statute-book. They had got rid of the rate in his own parish, but he wished to banish such an occasion of heartburning from every parish.

Rev. HENRY MORE, of Lowestoft, in seconding the motion, caused some amusement by stating that the clergy and officials at Lowestoft, as well as themselves, had studied the society's legal manuals, and produced them at the vestry in great glee. The motion was then carried, and a second, on the same subject, was moved by Mr. Deputy PEWTRESS, *viz.*—

That the Council would anxiously press upon their friends throughout the country the paramount importance of continuing and extending opposition to Church-rates in parish vestry, it being now beyond question that such opposition not only does not depend upon majorities even for immediate success, but is also of the greatest value in its influence upon the general question.

He did not think they would be able to carry a bill for abolition of Church-rates without an equivalent; but they should be prepared to entertain any amendments Government might suggest. (Ories of "No, no.") He should like to know to whose hands the Church-rate Bill was to be entrusted.

MR. ELLINGTON, in seconding the motion, said they must gain every way, for while agitating for abolition they were educating the public mind. (Hear.)

Dr. FOSTER, in reply to Mr. Pewtreas, said he was convinced that an independent member had no chance of carrying anything but a simple bill for abolition of Church-rates, and so, as a mere matter of policy, their bill should go for that. They need not discuss amendments till they were before them. He had been in communication with Sir John Trelewney, and other members, about the conduct of the Church-rate Bill, but this was a very difficult matter, and they deeply felt the loss of Sir William Clay.

MR. NATHAN said when he was churchwarden, at Limehouse, the Church was injured by fire, and as he would not ask for a rate the voluntary principle had been resorted to, and, he believed, 11,000*l.* or 12,000*l.* had been raised as the result: (Cheers.)

MR. BARNES said that it was often urged that the churches were national property. He thought they were, and, therefore, thought they ought to demand more than the mere abolition of Church-rates, and claim also the right to a share in the use of these national buildings. (Laughter and cheers.)

MR. GRIMWADE, of Ipswich, strongly deprecated the idea of giving an equivalent for Church-rates out of the public funds. They had better remain as they were than have an unsatisfactory settlement.

MR. TURBERVILLE was not sanguine in respect to the early settlement of the question, and, therefore, recommended gentlemen to go home with a determination to press it in their own localities. (Hear, hear.) At Worcester they had formed a County Anti-rate Association, and he suggested that the example should be followed.

MR. ROSE, of Dorking, urged the mooting of the question in the vestry every year, if needful. He did so, though he had not yet been successful. The resolution having been carried,

MR. COPEMAN, of Norwich, moved the next resolution:—

That the Council desires to record its warm appreciation of the society's monthly journal, the *Liberator*, and of its other recent publications, which, by their pointed illustrations of the workings of the compulsory system in matters of religion, and practical information respecting the means of opposing it, have been of material service in bringing the cause of religious freedom to its now advanced position before the Legislature and the country.

Mr. BAINES seconded it, because at the conference he had urged the extension of the circulation of the *Liberator*. He thought it had good effect, as it was a household work among the smaller subscribers, who also circulated it among others.

Mr. GRIMWADE said that, in his own town, the subscription list had been much improved, in consequence of the circulation of the *Liberator*.

The resolution was then carried, after which it was moved by Dr. FOSTER:—

That, appreciating the importance of greatly increasing the number of the society's friends on the parliamentary register, the Council approves of the intention of the Executive Committee to furnish facilities for that purpose, and urges the desirability of steady exertions for promoting the success of their plans.

He said that recent Liberal successes in the counties had occurred just where the society had been helping to improve the register, and if they could not claim those successes as the direct result, it showed that their previous statements respecting the strength of the nonconforming element in those counties was correct. He then proceeded to develop a plan by which the society hoped to secure a considerable addition to the number of Nonconformist electors in counties.

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. H. SALLY, and after a statement made by Mr. BONTEMPS, that in one county 500 names had been put on the register at an expense of 100*l.*, it was carried.

The Rev. ROBERT ECKERT moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded, carried, and acknowledged.

The meeting then broke up and the members proceeded to dinner. As the Council meeting did not conclude till late, and the annual meeting of the Milton Club was being held, there was not the usual speechmaking after dinner.

THE PUBLIC MEETING.

In the evening of the same day the usual public meeting was held at St. Martin's Hall, Long-acre. Although from the great size of that building it was not quite full, there was a very large and a highly respectable as well as enthusiastic audience, and it was considered to be an improvement on the Finsbury Chapel meetings. Thos. Barnes, Esq., late M.P. for Bolton, occupied the chair, and among a large number of gentlemen on or near the platform, we recognised E. G. Salisbury, Esq., M.P., Donald Nicoll, Esq., M.P., Frank Crossley, Esq., M.P., Sam. Courtauld, Esq., Rev. Jno. Burnet, W. J. Fox, Esq., Edward Miall, Esq., Rev. J. P. Chown (of Bradford), W. Edwards, Esq., Rev. J. H. Hinton, Edward Swaine, Esq., Rev. E. S. Price, Rev. H. Richard, J. F. Bontems, Esq., Stafford Allen, Esq., Jno. Cunningham, Esq., Rev. A. Good, Rev. C. J. Middleditch, Dr. Foster, Hugh Owen, Esq., Rev. J. Waddington, Henry Ellington, Esq., J. Carvell Williams, Esq., Chas. Miall, Esq., W. Heaton, Esq., Rev. J. Smith, Rev. W. Barker, Rev. E. Stallybrass, A. T. Bowser, Esq., Rev. Basil Cooper, Rev. Edward White, Thos. Baker, Esq. (of Andover), Thos. Barry, Esq. (of Brill), Wm. Baines, Esq. (of Leicester), Alexander Sommerville, Esq., S. Grundy, Esq. (of Luton), Rev. Mr. Sewell (of London), W. Sisson, Esq. (of Hull), Rev. Mr. Dobson (of Yarmouth), Rev. H. More (of Lowestoft), T. G. Grundy, Esq. (of Hastings), E. S. Robinson, Esq. (of Bristol), Rev. J. Pyer (of Devonport), T. Grundy, Esq. (of Northampton), and numerous other gentlemen from the country.

The CHAIRMAN said, they had met that night after passing through one of those great convulsions to which the nation was periodically exposed—a general election—and they were met to tell the religious and political world that the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State-Patronage and Control was neither dead nor dying, but was alive and ready for action. The election had launched some new men upon the deep waters of political strife, but had at the same time stranded some old ones upon the shores; yet, while they regretted that one especially whom they had been accustomed to recognise as their representative in the House of Commons had no longer a seat in Parliament, they rejoiced to think he was not tongue-tied, and that, though defeated, he was not disheartened nor disdained. (Hear, hear.) If he could not speak to the representatives of the people, he could speak to the people themselves. [Mr. Miall entered the room, and his ascent to the platform was greeted by enthusiastic cheering.] The object of the meeting was not a sectarian one, but was of national importance. They met as Englishmen standing up for the full application of a principle that was generally acknowledged, the principle of even-handed justice and universal liberty; what was called religious liberty being simple liberty applied to religious purposes. It was evident that they could not long remain in the present position. The constituencies of the country would soon be compelled to decide what course they would take. They must either advance from the present position, and extend the grants made for religious purposes to all denominations, or they must declare that they would give them to none. (Hear, hear.) Their society was of opinion that it was best to make no grants, and to place all upon a level by taking away all State-patronage and control from every denomination. If the other course were taken, that of paying all, as advocated by Napoleon Bonaparte, and by many members of the English House of Commons, what would be the result? The miscellaneous estimates had been of late increased from two to six millions, and there was a tendency to increase them still further; but what must be the increase if the State took all religious denominations into its pay? They must not expect to find the money in the bank; it must come out of their own pockets in the shape of taxes—(hear, hear)

—and could it be supposed that persons who made no profession of religion would willingly pay taxes to support it? Would it not rather lead to a general alienation from religion, if not hatred of it; so that the very object of religion would be defeated by that course? The society, whose interests they were met to promote, had not been inactive, but had rendered good services in years past, and he believed it was destined to render good services in time to come. It had sketched out for itself a programme of proceedings for the Parliament that had recently terminated which it would have pursued had it continued; and it would now sketch out a programme for the Parliament at present assembled, and he believed it had no doubt would carry on its labours with great effect.

Mr. J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, the general secretary, then made a statement of the proceedings of the society during the past year, after which

The Rev. JOHN BURNET moved:—

That this meeting regards with great satisfaction the operations and growing influence of the Liberation of Religion Society; and rejoices at the indications afforded by numerous public events of the rapid advance of its principles in public estimation.

He had been often told, that ministers of religion had no right to interfere in those political matters; but he should like to know upon what principle that privilege was denied him? Were ministers of religion always out of place, except they had lawn sleeves in the House of Lords? (Hear, hear.) If they were ministers of religion, they were subjects of the Crown, and had an interest in the politics of the country. (Hear, hear.) They did not like him (Mr. Burnet) to meddle with politics, but they always sent the tax-gatherer to his door. (Laughter.) Now, certainly, if he, as a minister of religion, was out of place in interfering with politics, the tax-gatherer was out of place in applying to him for money. (Applause.) He maintained, however, that he had a right to be taxed. As an honest man, he liked to bear his own expenses. If his expenses extended, not merely to his household, but to the State, he had a right to defray them; but he had also a right to look after them, but that was denied him. They allowed him the right to bear his expenses, but doubted the propriety of his looking after the account. (Laughter.) They were told that religion was a matter of great importance to the State, and that it was just, therefore, that it should be maintained by legislative enactment and legislative power. Legislation had only three objects—the protection of a man's person, of his labour, and of his property; and they were often told that religion had a tendency to give that protection, and therefore ought to be maintained by the State. But let them carry out that principle. Had not bread a tendency to support our person?—then why not salary the baker? (Laughter.) The doctor, the tailor, the carpenter, all were useful in the protection of our persons and our property; and why should they not all be supported in the same way? The idea, it would be said, was absurd, but not more so than the idea of maintaining out of the public purse the ministers of religion. All other departments were carried on by the persons directly concerned in them, and why not allow religion to be carried on in the same way? Besides, if we salaried the different trades to which he had referred, we might be sure of not getting the best articles. The income was sure, and the article given might be just as it suited the person producing it. There was a twofold way in which they ought to act upon this great question; first, they must act in the House of Commons. There were so many things influencing the members, that it was difficult to get much from them in the way of simultaneous or voluntary operation. The society, therefore, should act vigorously on the public at large. The public should be taught to require, from candidates, a full exposition of their principles. They should not ask them for pledges, but require of them to state publicly their views, and if they said, as they were very apt to say, with reference to troublesome questions, "We are not yet prepared to give an opinion on the subject, it requires mature deliberation," then the constituencies should say, "Do not come to us until you have learned your lesson; go to school again, and then come back to us." (Laughter.) But they were frequently told that they ought to render to Caesar the things that were Caesar's, and to God the things that were God's. They were not told, however, what things belonged to Caesar, and what things belonged to God. Such a distinction would be fatal to the cause of a State-church. The things that belonged to Caesar were temporal things, beyond which he was a mere usurper. What Caesar could touch the intellect, or move the affections? Could he teach them by his sceptre? No; they were altogether beyond his power and control; he could only demand that men should support the religion which he could not enforce. The idea of supporting a religion by force, was a mockery offered to religion itself. (Cheers.)

W. J. FOX, Esq., who was received with loud and long-continued applause, seconded the resolution. He said: Though I have not before attended any of the meetings of this society, yet I trust I may regard the invitation which I had to present myself to this meeting as a recognition of my attachment to the principles on which this society is founded, and to the object which this society contemplates. Those principles have been mine from early youth. I have adhered to them through every change of circumstances; they were mine when I occupied for thirty-five years the pulpit; they have been mine during the ten years I have had a seat in the House of Commons; and they are equally mine now, entitled to the devotion of my utmost faculties and my highest aspirations. (Applause.) Sir, I would say to this meeting, in the last words which I addressed to my

late constituents, the wise man tells us that there is a time to speak and a time to keep silence. The time to speak in the cause of religious freedom and equality is so long as the breath of life animates our frames; the time to keep silence only comes when we sink into the compulsory quietude of the grave. I sympathise in the expressions of the resolutions. I look with pleasure at the progress this society has made. I look with great satisfaction at its useful influence, to which, in some cases, I have accidentally been a witness in many remote parts of the country, where I have seen the strength which it has infused into the minds of those who were struggling, apparently, almost alone against overbearing influences. But still I should certainly have been glad if more had come fresh from the hustings to testify here their adhesion to the great principle of all real liberalism, to the great essential of political exertion—for religious liberty is essential to civil liberty, and can never be separated from it. But, sir, I will hope that they are only reserving themselves to come out more strongly in the House of Commons. I will trust to that as long as such trust is at all reasonable, and I would say to them, that the language of us who have been dismissed from that house is, "Go on." We would cry to you as the fallen in the field of battle; cry to those who are pressing onwards, although it be over our bodies, Forward! until you plant the banner of religious freedom on the darkest and loftiest towers of intolerance. (Applause.) Your secretary, in his luminous statement, has more immediately marked out the objects which call for the exertions of this society, and amongst these he has placed what is generally termed Jewish emancipation, but which I regard also as Christian emancipation. (Hear, hear.) It is the emancipation of Christian constituencies to choose the person whom they please to intrust with the safeguard of their rights, and they may very often prefer a true-hearted Jew to one whom they may deem a false-hearted Christian. (Hear, hear.) Why, the City of London has now been for several years actually disfranchised, deprived of its share in the representation of the nation, because it has adhered manfully, and most honourably, in its determination to be represented by a Jew; and that Jew is kept out by what? By oaths. It is not by oaths that the House of Commons ought to show its Christianity. As it prides itself on being a Christian house, it should show its Christianity, not by its oaths, but by its votes; not by a theoretical renunciation of King James and all his posterity, but by a practical renunciation of the devil and all his works. (Cheers.) It should show its Christianity, not by solemnly swearing that the Pope has no dominion in this country, but by keeping out any sectarian pope-dom that may try to establish itself. It should show its Christianity, not by swearing "on the true faith of a Christian," but by acting on the true morals of a Christian. But, sir, it is curious to observe that, although there is such an aversion to Judaism in one way, how much the house is disposed to Judaise on other points. On almost all the great questions which the friends of progress endeavour to agitate, the house goes upon Jewish principles much more than upon Christian. Is the question of capital punishment mooted? They refer to the Old Testament, and tell us, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." Is the question of marriage mooted? Again they refer to Leviticus, and they forbid a man to marry his wife's sister, when his wife is dead, because that law forbids him to marry two sisters when the first wife was alive. (Cheers and laughter.) The exclusion of the Jews cannot be called properly a relic of legislative intolerance. It is not a relic of legislative intolerance, but it is a blunder which the house has fallen into. I shall be glad to see not only Jews in Parliament; but, if by some of those great movements our colonies could be brought nearer to us; if India, by some of those operations which we have seen in the use of steam to the electric telegraph, could be made, as it were, practically to touch the soil of England, and become entitled to representatives, I should like to see them in the House of Commons; and I should like to see there the turbaned Turk, representing his own countrymen, asserting their rights, and maintaining their privileges. The true principle, I think, is this,—the constituencies universally are the proper judges of men whom they want to take care of their rights. With them the judgment should remain; and the house has no business to interfere. I think the absurdity was brought to a climax when the house actually allowed Baron Rothschild to swear on the Old Testament, and yet required him to use the words, "upon the true faith of a Christian." I think that resolution ought to have seated him as a representative of London. It should have been so after the example of the Quakers who have been admitted without any specific legislative enactments for the purpose. It should have been so under that law by which courts of justice are authorised to administer an oath in any form binding upon the conscience of the witness. It should have been so in an honourable emulation of the House of Lords; for as they claimed the right of objecting to the sitting of a peer created by her Majesty, as they claimed the right of saying that Baron Wenleydale should not sit in the House of Lords, it would have been only fairly matching their resolution for the House of Commons to have resolved that Baron Rothschild should sit in their house. Another of the objects stated by your secretary, and one which will shortly call for exertion on the part of this society, is the question of the Church-rates. Great progress has been made in this question. There are some with me now on this platform, who, two years ago, went down into the country to assist at the presentation of a testimonial to Mr. Courtauld, to whose exertions through a

long course of years, at a considerable outlay of property, and by an unrivalled demonstration of zeal and firmness, we were indebted for the fact, that the right of majority of a vestry to refuse a Church-rate was recognised by the Legislature. (Applause.) And there, if all parishes were populous, we might rest; for Church-rates are abolished in almost every parish which has a large population—that population being possessed of any freedom of action. But we must look to minorities as well as majorities. Matters of conscience are not settled by counting noses. (Laughter.) And there are many who are sorely oppressed by this nefarious imposition, who have not the power to connect or to command a majority, and who are obliged to submit to the violation of their own feelings and principles. Originally, churches were repaired out of the tithes; so they ought to bestill. The Papal priesthood, by wielding the terrors of the unseen world, managed to shift the burden from their own shoulders to those of the laity. The Church of England did not do this, but it consents to be the receiver of the stolen goods. (Laughter.) Sir, if Church-rates were to be renewed, as some would have them, we should see on almost every church wall a marble tablet with this inscription; "Built by Roman Catholics, repaired by Protestant Dissenters, and occupied by Episcopalian." (Cheers and laughter.) One other of the important topics indicated, I think I had better leave to abler hands—I mean the hands of him by whom the question was first mooted, and most ably and admirably mooted in the House of Commons; I refer to Mr. Miall's introduction of the proposition, that the great experiment of separating Church and State should first be tried upon Ireland. Almost every other experiment has been tried there—(laughter)—the experiment of most vehement, vigorous, and cruel persecution. The experiment of bribery has been tried there; the Catholic priesthood has been bribed, or attempted to be bribed; the Presbyterian priesthood has been attempted to be bribed also; universal bribery succeeded to universal persecution, and the one has failed as egregiously as the other. Those who heard will not soon forget Mr. Miall's admirable statement and speech, which made the most extraordinary impression on the House of Commons, and which was supported by a minority that could not have been calculated upon for so bold and sweeping a proposition. I hope the Dissenters of this country, the friends of religious liberty of all classes, Church or Dissenting, will feel it their duty to replace him in his position, in order that he may carry on that great work. (Cheers.) I feel myself free to speak on this subject; I am not canvassing for myself; my Parliamentary career at my time of life, and in my state of health, is probably finally closed—(cries of "No, no.")—but I do say it will disgrace the religious Liberals of this country if Mr. Miall and Sir William Clay, two men, whose names are identified with two of the great questions of religious freedom, are not replaced to wear the laurels which they have so well deserved. (Cheers.) If I understand the principles of this society, it is that religion should be entirely free from the patronage, from the control, from the interference, altogether of the State; no man should be damaged in mind, body, or estate, by legislative enactment or legislative administration on account of his theological views. It is a great principle, and its bearings are so various, that one almost stands aghast at the work before those who undertake to assert that truth. It implies the throwing open of our great universities, and giving the people a share of that magnificent mental heritage which was bequeathed to the entire community by the liberality of our forefathers. It implies the dismissal of bishops from their places in the House of Lords; it implies the abolition of Church-rates and similar impositions; it implies the abolition of every tax that makes one man pay in any form for the religion of others; it implies the rites of marriage and of sepulture according to our consciences. It would put an end to those extravagant interpositions by which we find one bishop after another preventing people having a fair open burial-ground, insisting, some on a ditch and some on a wall; some specifying the height of that wall, whilst others are content with iron palisades, as if we might not mingle in the grave—that grave which is alike the destiny of the Churchman and Dissenter, and which ought to be allowed to preach its eloquent lessons of charity and equality. Sir, I believe that that State-interference with religion is alike pernicious to religion and the State; it corrupts the one and it enslaves the other. If any one who is opposed to human progress, wants to win an election, who are the most active canvassers? Nineteen times out of twenty, they are the clergymen of the district! When any great measure is contended for, when a popular agitation insists upon some public right, do we generally find the Church leading them on as they ought? Some few years ago, at the time when I had the happiness of standing on the same platform with my friend near me, in a different cause; when we wanted to make the clergy join us in giving reality to the petition which they repeat three times in their service, "Give us this day our daily bread;" when in aid of that great movement, there was a grand gathering of 700 Dissenting ministers at Manchester, where was the Church?—where its hundreds, where its scores, where its tens? A few straggling individuals assisted, and that was all. Why, sir, if a restless minister, after gaining glory by satisfactorily concluding a just and necessary war, were to plunge the country into another war, and yet another, neither just nor necessary, at the very ends of the earth—if such a minister were to uphold his subordinates in making vindictive retaliation of an insult, which being disclaimed, ceased to be an insult at all—if he stood by them in carrying that retaliation to the extent of bombarding a crowded city, showering

upon it shot, and shell, and fire, which make no distinction between the culprit and the innocent, the young and the old; know no difference in age or sex: if he should stand by them in producing, by a not unnatural reaction, recourse to the unhallowed weapons of poison and assassination—weapons of the feeble, when the strong are so overbearing that it can be borne no longer—if he should stand by exciting hatred between sections of the human race which spreads itself from country to country, producing everywhere insurrection, and murder, and massacre—if he should support them in what threatens to be a war, a war to enforce commerce on a reluctant country, and not legitimate commerce merely, but smuggling commerce, putting us in this position, that when the zealous Englishman appears before heathens whom he would convert, he is looked at as bringing the bread of Life for the salvation of souls in one hand, and the poison of opium for the destruction of bodies in the other. I say, if there were to be a minister that could and would do all this, though the House of Commons might rebuke him, he would find bishops to support him. (Laughter.) Ay, nearly the whole bench of bishops, at least a large proportion of it, over-riding the etiquette which forbids a bishop to vote upon any question involving bloodshed, and ready to aid him in sending through the world unlimited and apparently interminable slaughter. Or, if any should object to my mode of putting this, I take the opposite view. Let it be that bishops were right in that vote; let it be that they were only acting on the injunction, with some misapplication of it, to remember their Creator—(a laugh)—let it be that they were perfectly justifiable, then I say, remember the way in which the mention of their conduct was received in the House of Commons, the groans and hootings at the very name of bishops that resounded through the house, and which those who heard will not soon forget—such groans and hootings as I have not heard connected with bishops, except in the streets of London twenty-five years ago, when they threw out the first Reform Bill, and which they brought upon themselves now by as great a deviation from national justice as that was from political right. (Cheers.) I would ask those who take the opposite view to myself, does the system work well on either hypothesis?—for I put them hypothetically—does the system work well in either way—the system which puts this feeling between the heads of the Church and the most eminent followers of the laity? I say, take it which way you will, it shows that the system is not working for the promotion of religion or the extension of spiritual influence. George Canning once objected in the House of Commons to statistics; he said anything might be proved by figures. I deny that; and I deny it upon the strength of the last census. You cannot from that census, by any means, prove by figures that a Church which, at the most, only includes about one-third of the population, is entitled to inherit all the national funds which have been given to church purposes. (Hear, hear.) They defend the Church-rates, because they say churches are national property, and ought, therefore, to be repaired at the national expense. Why, then, not let the nation use them? We might be induced to listen to a compromise on such terms. We pay for them as a portion of the nation, and as a portion of the nation, let us consecrate them to our own purposes. Why, the Church is a complete failure as a church; it neither sustains its uniformity nor its liberty. Uniformity! why, with all its laws to that effect, with its Prayer-book, which is only the long schedule of an Act of Parliament—uniformity! why, if you want variety, I would say, look at the Church of England—listen to the discordant teachings of its ministers. (Laughter.) There is not a sect in Dissent that has not its parallel within the boundaries of the Church; not a sect, from the nearest approach to the very verge of Popery, down to the very lowest grade of German Rationalism. You find them all there; and there is only this difference, that they have all *ex animo* subscribed the Thirty-nine Articles, which one of their bishops—Bishop Stanley, of Norwich, declared in his place in the House of Lords, some twenty-five years ago, that he never knew a clergyman entirely believe. (Laughter.) Sir, I would not have it understood by anything I say, either as an individual or on the part of this society, that there is anything like a hostile feeling towards the Church of England, as a church. Why, every man who has any sense of religion in him—any man who has any respect for the most beautiful manifestations of religion, must respect a church which has been adorned by the names of Barrow, with his lucid reasonings; of Jeremy Taylor, with his brilliant and ever-blooming imagery; of Tillotson, with his calm, and dignified, and stately charity; of Horne, with his simple piety; and Butler, with his nervous logic; and must make these from time to time the companions of his best feelings, and feel grateful that such men lived, and taught, and wrote. (Cheers.) We have no hostility to it as a spiritual influence; our only objection to it is as a temporal corporation, as a rapacious, grasping corporation, which is ever on the look-out for public money. In addition to the enormous funds which it has appropriated, it endeavours to seize them in all our colonies; it everywhere has the lion's share of the money which is set apart for religious purposes, although it is notorious that Church of England members do not average more than one-seventh of the population in any of our colonies. But they are arousing themselves, and will set an example that should be followed here. I would say that what we wish for the Church is its emancipation also; it wants emancipation quite as much as the Jews. We wish it freedom, such freedom as it has in the United States of America. Look at the Episcopal Church there; what a contrast it is! Bishops live on their modest incomes without

the palaces and pomp given them here, and they are universally respected and beloved. The Episcopal Church of America has simplified its forms, has admitted the principle of progress, and got rid of one document after another that hurt the consciences of its ministers. The Episcopal Church there has always been foremost in the cause of universal or religious freedom; it has regularly increased its members, and it exhibits a beautiful specimen of what an episcopal church may be, when it is liberated from the contaminating influence of State-patronage. Sir, I will only mention one more topic in connection with the promising expression which the resolution I am seconding holds out. It is this: we have a new Parliament, more extensively committed, if reliance is to be placed on words used at the hustings—a new Parliament more extensively committed than any perhaps that has come before it, to the cause of Parliamentary reform, but he must be a very sanguine man, indeed, who expects without it to realize the great objects of this meeting—the liberation of religion from State-patronage. Political reform is the broad highway in which we must march to religious freedom and equality. (Cheers.) There is no shorter road; there is no better path; and we thus proclaim the indissoluble alliance of civil and religious liberty, to which it has been a frequent custom to pledge ourselves at our festive meetings, all the world over. If we would really compare principles, we must take them in their ultimate tendencies, in their extreme results; and I would do so with the principle of State-patronage, and with that of voluntary religion. What is the tendency of State interference? It is this, to bind up consciences in Acts of Parliament, to prescribe a rule and law for everything; to stifle the first breathings of intellect, by pledging men to long strings of propositions, many of them relating to unfathomable questions, others of them asserting contradictory dogmas. The tendency of State-patronage is to make the world a temple of mere formality, empty words, and what has been designated "organised hypocrisy." But after the lapse of long ages—for it will be ages yet that the conflict of these two principles shall last—after, by successive steps, the human mind has been emancipated, and nations have been enlightened to perceive the right way in which we should deal with religion—at the end of that long vista, what do we behold? The world one great temple of voluntary worship, a temple not raised with hands, but built by the Almighty architect of suns and systems; the dome of heaven its lofty roof; the plain of earth its wide basis, and sun, and moon, and stars, its glittering ornaments; every human heart an altar; the entire race one consecrated priesthood; and penitence, piety, and love, the incense that shall ascend to God's palace and his throne, and draw down his gracious benediction. (Loud applause.)

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Rev. J. P. CHOWN, of Bradford, said: It has been said, by a poet, whom I believe Sir Robert Peel calls Goldsmith, and whom the French, in their admiration, call the divine Williams, but who is known to some of us by another name, that

"The course of true love never did run smooth"—(a laugh)—and I suppose this is true with reference to all love—that which is intellectual and moral, and seeks great principles of truth and righteousness for its object, as well as that which only pertains to our fellow-beings, and especially the fairer portion of them. And it appears as though the members of this society had just met with an illustration of this. But then, the lover does not allow it in any way to quench his ardour, but rather to stimulate and enkindle it; and so must it be with us. The object of his regard, for instance, may look coldly upon him, but he only strives all the more to render that impossible to be done, and so must we. Or he may be sometimes forbidden to enter the house where his suit might be most pleasantly and successfully carried on: but "love laughs at locksmiths," and so must we. (Laughter and cheers.) If he be a true lover, he will, of course, triumph over all difficulties, and his reward at last will be all the more precious for what he has passed through to attain it; and by God's blessing so shall we. (Cheers.) But, seriously, we meet to-day in circumstances in which our good cause, to some, appears to have received a check. To some extent it may be so; but not at all in my estimation more than might have been looked for in the very nature of things, or than shall prove salutary to ourselves, and promotive of the great object for which we are banded together. (Hear.) It is so in all great onward movements. Just as you see it in the opening dawn of day, there comes first a trembling ray of light, and then it is darkness again; then a stronger ray, and then that recedes; then another still stronger, but an envious cloud gathers over that; but the glorious sun is mounting up to the horizon, and it shall be day soon for all that. We see it just the same in the onflowing tide, first the creaming ripple, and then the billow, and then the wave, sweep up to our feet, but only to retire again further than before, and that only to gather strength; so that the ripple are long shall become the billow, the billow become the wave, and the wave become the tide, and the tide become a little ocean, washing the beach of its pollutions, filling the harbour with its waters, and bearing a navy out upon the world on its bosom. And it is something so with this season of the year we are passing through now; in February we had it warm and genial, and we looked for the crocuses, and listened for the birds, and thought spring was come before her time; then in March, we had days of darkness and wintry gloom; on Easter Sunday we had hailstorms, and on the Monday we had a deep snow; and since then some of us have attended what are called May

meetings, wrapped up and shivering, our teeth chattering almost, in the keen, bitter, north-east blast ; but we know summer, with all its flowers, and fruit, and beauty, and autumn in all her glory, that shall flood the broad earth with blessedness, and fill the world with good, is coming for all that. And so it is with our cause ; it may, and must, meet with its checks, and it is well it should, because they do not come by mere chance or accident, we know. Some may feel discouraged ; but we do not, because they are not mere experiments, such efforts as those in which we are engaged ; they are no more mere experiments than morning sunbeams or the billows of the ocean tide we have spoken of, or the glories of spring, are experiments ; but like them, they are so far accomplished facts and realities, and as such the sure and certain precursors of nobler facts and realities for which they are preparing the way, and every one is in itself an earnest of a better one to follow. And so are there those who are ready to talk of failure, and are asking "What if we fail?" Why, we answer with Scotland's Queen, "We fail ! but screw your courage to the sticking place, and we'll not fail." (Loud applause.) And it is a cheering thought, that our work is still as worthy as ever of our support and advocacy. I confess, that to me, this meeting seems fully worthy to take rank among the noblest and best of all that grace and honour the Metropolis at this season of the year. Other societies are formed to diffuse Christianity through the world under all the disadvantages of her being allied with State power, and under State authority ; we are labouring to set her free from her bondage, that she may fly abroad herself, like the angel in the mid heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to proclaim to every nation, and kindred, and tongue ; we are striving to break the bonds in which her fair form is chained to the wheels of the State car, and too often dragged in the dust and bespattered with mire, that she may rise from the dust and shake herself, and put on her beautiful garments, and ride forth in her own chariot that is waiting for her to bear the blessings of salvation to the ends of the world. And I take this to be about one of the noblest works in which a man in this world can be engaged. We did not join it on the condition that there never should be a discouragement or reverse, and that if there were we should give it up. We did not enter upon our journey on condition that there should be no cloud to darken the sky, no thorn in our path, no hill to climb, and that, if there were, we would turn back. It was no such child's or coward's bargain as this into which we entered ; we undertook it because we felt it to be right, and true, and noble, worthy of a thousand times more than we could ever do for it ; and, having put our hand to the plough, shall we look back, and especially if enemies should be disposed to point the finger in exultation ? No, the timid and the half-hearted may do so, but that is the time for the true-hearted to gather all the more earnestly around the standard they bear, to gird on their armour afresh, and give themselves anew to the battle. (Applause.) And we are not left to uncertainty as to what shall be the result of our efforts, any more than as to our duty in putting them forth, because we know our cause is that of truth and righteousness, and must prevail ; just as in God's government all things ultimately find their level ; and, in the long run, the right comes uppermost. Our cause may have its ebbs and flows, its checks and discouragements, its nights as well as its days, but we believe it to be the cause of truth and righteousness, and it shall advance through them all to final triumph and everlasting honour and reward. (Cheers.) And then the resolution speaks of actual gains, the important accession of strength in the House of Commons—that I will leave for others ; if it were not so, we should be full of confidence, but this is still further cause for encouragement. And then our friends who no longer have their seat in Parliament, though they will have it again, and before long,—we have not lost them. They are not dead, bodily, politically, or spiritually ; they are not traitors to the cause—then we might weep and mourn ; their tongues are not speechless, their right hands have not lost their cunning with the pen ; they are alive as ever, and perhaps even a little more alive, as we all are, than if all things had gone on quite as smoothly and nice as we could wish ; they are true as ever, earnest as ever. Let us gather around them, then, and rejoice in them, and prepare for the fight, for the day of the Lord is at hand ; and, as Charles Kingsley sings :—

The day of the Lord is at hand, at hand ;
Its storms roll up the sky ;
A nation sleeps starving on heaps of gold :
All dreamers toss and sigh.
When the pain is sorest, the child is born,
When the day is darkest before the morn
Of the day of the Lord at hand.

Gather you, gather you, angels of God—
Chivalry, justice, and truth ;
Come for the earth is grown coward and old,—
Come down and renew us her youth.
Freedom, self-sacrifice, mercy, and love,
Haste to the battle-field, stoop from above,
To the day of the Lord at hand.

Who would sit down and sigh for a lost age of gold,
When the Lord of all ages is here ?
True hearts will leap up at the trumpet of God,
And those who can suffer can dare ;
Each past age of gold was an iron age, too,
And the meekest of saints may find stern work to do
In the day of the Lord at hand.

(Loud and prolonged applause.)
E. G. SALISBURY, Esq., M.P. for Chester, said, he had great pleasure in appearing at the meeting to show his attachment to the cause of religious liberty. It had been a dear cause to him ever since he was a child ; and he had grown up to love the cause of religious liberty quite as much as that of civil liberty. He was proud, therefore, of an opportunity to declare his honest determination to do what in him lay to

carry out the principles which this society professes. (Hear, hear.) It appeared, from an analysis made by the committee of this society, that, while the Liberation cause had lost thirty, it had gained sixty-six ; so that there had been a clear gain of thirty-six votes. (Hear, hear.) But it was a remarkable fact, and one that ought to be carefully considered, that while in Wales, one in every seven of the people were Dissenters, not a single member whose vote could be relied upon to vote for the liberation of religion had been returned for the Principality. (Hear, hear.) He was sorry that such men as Mr. Fox, Mr. Barnes, and Mr. Miall, should have been excluded from the House of Commons ; but they ought to remember, and be encouraged thereby, that these gentlemen might do much for the cause they had at heart by their advocacy on the platform and through the press ; and if the public sentiment did not back up the representatives of the House of Commons, they could do very little. (Hear.)

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

EDWARD MIALL, Esq., who, on rising, was greeted with loud and prolonged applause, said : I very clearly perceive, that I have not owed the favour you have uniformly displayed towards me to the accidental position that I may have occupied. (Cheers.) But I would take this opportunity of saying, before I proceed further, that whatever may have occurred within the last few months, I certainly have not been downhearted. (Cheers.) When I resolved, in the exercise of mature and even painful deliberation, to consecrate myself to the work in which we are engaged, and to devote whatever time, energy, and talents God has given me, to the advancement of those principles that are embodied in this institution, I clearly foresaw, that, whilst there would be many seasons of pleasurable exercise—exercise pleasurable on its own account, and on account of the high object to which it would be devoted—yet, at the same time, I calculated, and placed to my account, many seasons in which my hopes would be disappointed, and the efforts that we have made would apparently for a season recoil upon ourselves. But when a man has determined to attain to some high summit, a simple fall may be regarded by him as only one variety of the exercise through which he must pass, and the discipline that he must undergo ; and I do feel somewhat sorry that so great a stress has been laid, as has been, upon the accidental, or, if you will have it so, and as I regard it, the providential losses that we have sustained. They are but in the natural course of things ; and instead of doing us harm, my belief is, that they will tend greatly to advance the cause that we have in hand. I utter no protest whatever against them. I feel my heart beating as clearly and as robustly in favour of the principles that we hold, and in anticipation of ultimate triumph, as ever I did in my life—(cheers)—and I for one, though I should be rejected by every constituency in the kingdom, and though the House of Commons should itself prove recreant to the principles of civil and religious liberty which it has taken under its patronage, but not under its control, still I should identify the cause with the cause of righteousness, and truth, and God. I identify my soul with it—(cheers)—and though I should suffer personal loss, which I have not, I yet here pledge myself again and again before the public, that whatever be the position that Providence may assign to me—that however narrow the sphere to which I may be confined—whatever may be the facilities taken out of my hands—what is left of me I will still employ in the same work—that sphere which I occupy I will occupy with the understanding that wherever I am, I am determined that this shall be the one great object to which I devote my life. (Loud cheers.) Well, but there is no reason to speak in this language of stern resolution, as though we had lost much. I believe we have gained far more than we have lost, and that the spirit in which we ought to look forward to the work which is yet before us, should be a spirit of firm tenacity, of confident expectation, and of genuine faith. (Hear, hear.) Of tenacity. We must hold our own. We have made progress ; we must see to it that we are not beaten back. (Hear, hear.) We must see to it that our own spirits do not take a lower and more depressed tone, in consequence of some of the public events that have occurred with regard to the question that we have in hand, and that we are resolved, so long as life is spared, to labour for its triumph. There is nothing which so certainly produces defeat, as that depression of spirit which invites defeat. (Hear, hear.) We have made good a position ; we must dare to occupy it. (Cheers.) Those gentlemen, who, with my honourable friend who has just addressed you, new to the House of Commons, have gone there in order to maintain the professions that they made to their constituencies on the hustings (and, with regard to the majority of them, I believe very sincerely made) ;—(hear, hear)—they have their trial to go through. They have their discipline to submit to. But I do earnestly beg of them that they will not yield one jot of ground that has already been won. (Hear, hear.) We commit to them as a sacred duty, that they do not allow any one of the interests that we have endeavoured to advance, to recede even in the sentiments of the House ; but that with earnest courage they will stand firm and maintain determinately the position to which this question had been already advanced. I hope and believe that such questions have been lifted out of the atmosphere of ridicule in which the house had placed them ; but they may soon return to that position again ; and we look to our friends in the house representing these principles, that they will stand firmly and boldly by them, in the exercise of their judgments and in that courage that all men ought to display in reference to the advancement of great

principles like these. We earnestly confide in them that they will do their utmost to sustain the spirits of those who embrace these principles throughout the whole kingdom, that none shall feel that any loss whatever has been sustained by the personal reverses that may have happened during the late general election. But it is necessary for us, not only to hold our own, but to connect the present with the future. Let us remember the greatness of the work in which we are engaged. It is described in my resolution :—

That this meeting entertains the sanguine hope, that, by well-chosen action within the House of Commons, supported by vigilance and firmness on the part of the electoral body, there will be obtained from the new Parliament fresh instruments of the equitable and unsectarian claims urged by the advocates of the Voluntary principle.

Yes, "equitable and unsectarian." What is it that we ask for ? Justice and charity. (Cheers.) Justice for every man in all the relations which he sustains ; for religious liberty, as we have more than once declared, in its fullest extent, is nothing but civil liberty granted to a man in respect to all the relationships which he may sustain in life. We do not ask anything for ourselves which we are not willing to give to others. (Cheers.) We simply desire, on the part of every one of our fellow-countrymen, that they may have full liberty to think, to speak, and to act out all their religious convictions quite uninterrupted and without the meddling of State authority. (Cheers.) In short in religion we set up individual rights against universal demand, and we say that each man for himself has a right to resist the interference of every other combined. This is real protestantism properly understood ; and this is the one great principle that we seek to develop. We would take nothing which belongs to another, neither rights, privileges, nor property. We do not wish in the slightest degree to injure the Church as a spiritual institution. We can rejoice in every prospect of her legitimate success. In that field the occupiers by appointment of Providence, we can bid with all sincerity—God-speed. (Cheers.) But what we say is this, you ought not, and shall not, if we can prevent it, wield the force of law within the domains of conscience. (Cheers.) We protest against the assumption of authority to use physical force for the advancement of moral and spiritual objects. (Hear, hear.) It is our simple desire, that every man should have the liberty to worship God and to sustain religious institutions without being interfered with by the State, and that by any means originally conferred upon the creature by the Creator. You see this is entirely unsectarian. (Hear, hear.) We are not aiming at the promotion of any denomination : on the contrary, our desire is to take away nothing but that which is calculated to excite bitterness between sect and sect. The great source of intolerance is the favouritism displayed by the State towards one religious body. Once give a man civil power for the advancement of ecclesiastical objects, and you convert him into a tyrant. The object, therefore, we should have in view, ought to be the object of every man who professes to breathe the spirit of the Gospel. (Cheers.) Such is the greatness of our object. I think we ought always to connect that with our present position. We are not accomplishing so rapidly, or in the precise way we hoped to have done, the objects we have in view. Our present expectations may be disappointed, but our future demand will be certainly realised ; and it is an object for which men may well live and well die. (Hear, hear.) I know of no nobler object—to say to the State, stand back, and let the power of God go forth in its own way. (Cheers.) This is the ultimate object at which we aim. And a great and noble object it is ; but one that is not to be attained except by teaching and elevating the mass of our countrymen. But I say that the men who may be the most laborious and successful in the prosecution of this great work, will be hereafter looked back upon as the truest patriots of their day. (Cheers.) For whatever may be the benefit that England has received from the liberation of commerce from the meddling of the State, it will prove as nothing in comparison with that universal liberation of mind which Englishmen and the world will receive from the abolition of the present connection between the Church and the State. (Cheers.) Our present aspect of the case may not be the most inviting ; but I believe much may now be done ; more especially if we bear in mind, that it is the part of wisdom, not to find fault with the tools we have, but to make the best use of them for the purposes that we desire. If we have not all that we wish, let us turn to account whatever we may have. And, for my own part, I have a confident faith in those gentlemen who have been returned by constituencies to represent this great and important principle in the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.) I am not disposed, in the slightest degree, to distrust the professions they have made, nor do I feel any disposition whatever to bind them by obligations greater than those which already bind their consciences and their honour. (Cheers.) I am certain that, even although the course they may have to pursue may be one involving some inconvenience to themselves, and some addition to the labours they will have to perform, they have not gone into the house to shirk this question, but they will be ready to act as one man for the furtherance of the principles embodied in this association. (Hear.) We are preparing our programme of Parliamentary business with a view to that result ; and not only with reference to the Church-rate question, which, I believe, will be carried forward, and most likely successfully, but I refer even to the motion that originated in the House of Commons. It may be that I shall not have the opportunity afforded to me to bring forward that question again in the house, but there is no necessity for that. The policy which was marked out by my speech in the House of Commons ;

the policy which has been adopted and urged by the friends and the committee of this association, is so clear, so true, so just, and commands itself so completely to man's moral sense, and to every conscientious desire to give to others that which they demand for themselves, that I believe the question must be efficiently and earnestly carried forward by any one who will sincerely devote his time and talents to the advocacy of it. We have still a work to perform out of doors. We have to collect necessary information for gentlemen in Parliament to act upon. Should it be my lot to stand again within the walls of that house, the very first thing that I should do, supposing it had not previously been done, would be to re-assume the position which I occupied in the late Parliament, and lay the whole question, once more before the House; and in a still more practical form, namely, that of a committee of inquiry of the House, to inquire into the operation of the whole question of endowments in relation to the kingdom of Ireland. (Cheers.) Well, then, I am not in the slightest degree discouraged. It is no use looking back and bewailing the past. I think every man ought to seek his duty as it lies before him, and brace up his nerves for the accomplishment of his object. (Cheers.) If he fails, what is the use of surveying the ground over which he has been tripped. (Hear, and a laugh.) What he has to do is to get up again as soon as possible—(cheers)—and leave that ground for ground more lofty. We want our friends in the Establishment to work. They don't know the luxury of work; they have not been accustomed to it. They have sat so long in confined rooms that they are afraid of the healthful breezes. They believe they have no powers to walk alone. We know better; and, as I have often said, and say again, we must treat them as old birds treat their young off. They look over the nest, and see the great depth below, and they fancy that, if they once get out, it will be impossible to get in again. But you know that old birds will make themselves so restless as to tip over their young brood, and make them sensible, for the first time, that Providence has furnished them with powers to sustain themselves. Now, what we want is, to act the part of parent-birds to our Episcopalian friends. (Laughter and cheers.) If we turn them out of the nest, it is not that they may tumble down and be destroyed, but that they may be under the necessity of finding their own powers. There is power enough in their religion, and in their zeal for it,—in their disposition for self-sacrifice, and in the commission which has been given to them from on high, to carry forward the true spiritual objects they have in view to the most glorious victory. (Cheers.) They do not know their own strength. Oh, that we could teach them to depend, not upon law, but upon the essential vitality of the truth they have received! (Applause.) I believe there are many in the House of Commons who begin to feel that there is, after all, something more noble than mere ledger calculations, and that there are things stronger than laws written in the statute-book; and if we can only promote this spirit, the day will not be far distant when religion will be proclaimed free, and when all national property will be appropriated to its proper use—when every man will go forth feeling himself to be under a simple obligation to God, his Maker, and Christ his Redeemer, to exert whatever power he possesses and to use whatever opportunity Providence has put into his way, without the intervention of law, without the dictation of statutes, without the assistance of national property. In order to sustain that by which his soul is stimulated and refreshed, and to carry the true gospel to the ends of the world. (Applause.)

FRANK CROSSLAY, Esq., M.P., seconded the resolution, expressing his deep regret that the services of Mr. Miall, Mr. Barnes, and Mr. Fox had been lost to the people as representatives in Parliament; but expressing his conviction, that the principles of the association would continue to advance, and, in the end, be triumphant.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Rev. R. SEWELL, of Londonderry, moved; and Mr. R. WILKINSON, of Totteridge, seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was cordially adopted.

The CHAIRMAN having returned thanks, the meeting separated.

(From the *Morning Star*.)

The meeting of the Religious Liberation Society, held at St. Martin's Hall on Wednesday evening, betokened no diminution of interest or slackening of purpose on the part of the friends of that association. The enthusiasm with which Messrs. Barnes, Fox, and Miall were greeted, abundantly proved that their exclusion from Parliament has in no way lessened the confidence reposed in their political character by large sections of the community; and it is not unlikely, as was intimated by more than one speaker, that their temporary defeat may serve to further rather than arrest the triumph of the objects they have at heart. They are all men of the people, and like Antaeus, their very fall only renews their strength by bringing them into fuller contact with the mother earth from which they sprang.

It would be difficult to find a better illustration of how much is to be gained, in despite of immense odds to the contrary, by the persistent advocacy of a great principle on the part of a few earnest and resolute men than is afforded by the history of this organisation. For not only has it conquered a permanent place in public estimation for the class of questions to which its efforts are more especially devoted, but—what is still more difficult—it has to a great extent succeeded in correcting the gross misapprehensions and violent prejudices which at its first

appearance it excited in the minds of opponents. Many good people thought that it was a confederacy of infidels and revolutionists to plunder the Church and divide the spoils among themselves. But now there are honourable men of all parties who have learnt to recognise the fact, that the most conspicuous leaders in this movement are men of deep Christian convictions, that their object is not so much to assail any existing institution as to establish a great principle in their belief of paramount importance to the purity and triumph of religion, and that there is no class of Dissenters who cherish more generous and catholic sympathies for all the elements of mental and spiritual worth to be found within the pale of the Established Church. Indeed, there are multitudes of men within the Church in these days who have cordially recognised both the beauty and efficacy of that principle of Christian willingness for which this society contends, as the living fountain of religious vitality and strength; and multitudes more who, while they pertinaciously refuse to accept it theoretically, are, nevertheless, acting upon it with admirable zeal and success in their several spheres. And surely the conviction cannot fail to grow in the minds of all earnest Churchmen, in proportion as they rise to clearer views of truth and larger feelings of charity, that to exclude men from their civil rights on the ground of their religious faith, and to extort by force of law reluctant tributes for the support of that Christian worship which is absolutely worthless except as it is the voluntary homage of the heart, can neither be honourable to religion, nor, in the best and broadest sense, conducive to the interests of their own church.

PRINCE ALBERT AND THE ARTS EXHIBITION AT MANCHESTER.

Prince Albert passed Tuesday evening "quite privately" at Abney Hall. On Wednesday morning, he went betimes to the Peel Park and Museum at Salford. Arriving about nine o'clock at the boundary between Manchester and Salford, and being there received by the Mayor, Mr. Heelis, he went in procession to the Museum. In the reading-room of that flourishing institution, the corporation of Salford presented their address to the Prince. It described the origin and growth of the library and museum, which since 1850 have been visited by 2,362,619 persons; the books lent out annually amount to 70,000 volumes, and the readers in the library to 100,000. Prince Albert having duly replied to this address, a second was presented by the Bishop of Manchester from the Institutional Association of Lancashire and Cheshire. After inspecting the museum, and the works of local artists, Prince Albert proceeded to the Peel Park, and there inaugurated a statue of Queen Victoria. An inscription on the pedestal best tells its origin and purpose:—

To commemorate the visit of Her Most Gracious Majesty to the Peel Park, Salford, October the 10th, 1851, this memorial was erected by the contributions, aided by public subscription, of 80,000 Sunday-school teachers and scholars, who were present to welcome Her Majesty on that joyful occasion.

THOMAS AGNEW, Mayor of Salford.

Having accomplished these duties, the Prince started for London at twelve o'clock, by a special train.

The Art Treasures Exhibition promises to prove very successful. Notwithstanding the Salford attractions of Wednesday, the number of visitors exceeded 10,000, of which number 2,000 paid at the door—the remainder being season-ticket holders. 8000 was realised on that day. At the concert in the exhibition building, on Thursday, nearly 10,000 persons were present. Among other celebrities were, the Duke of Newcastle and the Earl of Lincoln, Lord Overstone, the Bishop of Manchester, the Belgian Minister, the Lord Mayor of London, Sir T. Egerton, Dr. Waagen, &c. Some grand specimens of metal work from the Windsor collection were almost as much crowded about as the "Koh-i-noor" of 1851. On Friday some 5,000 to 6,000 persons were present, of whom the greater proportion were season-ticket holders. The number that paid the half-crown admissions is stated at 1,482, of whom 393 were brought by railway. On Saturday there was a larger attendance, both of season-ticket holders and of those who paid for admission. The weather was extremely favourable, and the afternoon holiday of Saturday enabled great numbers to be present who have not an opportunity of going on other days. The music was a great attraction. Of the picture galleries, that devoted to modern works attracted most attention, and was at times very crowded. Mr. Donald's refreshment rooms have been much thronged, and the arrangements of that department appear to give unbounded satisfaction.

The period for her Majesty's visit has not yet been fixed; but it is likely to take place towards the close of June. During the time of the Royal inspection her Majesty will remain at Worsley, the seat of the Earl of Ellesmere, distant some miles from Manchester.

Postscript.

Wednesday, May 13, 1857.

In the House of Lords, after an unsuccessful endeavour by the Bishop of OXFORD to gain time for the consideration of the Probate and Divorce Bills,

The Earl of CARNARVON directed attention to the account given in the *China Mail*, published at Hong Kong, of the barbarous treatment of the Chinese arrested on suspicion after the poisonings. Fifty prisoners were crammed into a room 16 feet long by 15

feet broad, furnished with a small aperture for ventilation, and were kept for twenty days in this confined space, without beds, and had to perform all the requirements of nature in it. He also moved for papers connected with the trial. The Earl of HARROWEY said that Government had written out for information, and would present any papers on the subject that might arrive. Meanwhile the house might presume that Sir John Bowring and the parties out there were not men to disgrace the Government by acting in the way that had been represented. After some discussion the motion was agreed to, and the house adjourned at six o'clock.

In the House of Commons notice was given by several members of their intention to bring forward bills; by Mr. More, on tenant right; the Attorney-General for Ireland, on the Irish Court of Exchequer and petty clerks; and the Vice-President of the Board of Trade, on passing tolls. Sir J. TRELLAWNY gave notice that on the 26th May he would move for leave to introduce a bill for the abolition of Church-rates; Sir J. TRELLAWNY, on behalf of Mr. Hardcastle, that he would on the 26th inst. move for leave to introduce a bill relating to burials in consecrated and unconsecrated grounds; and Lord PALMERSTON, that on Friday next he would move that the house should resolve itself into a committee on the subject of the oaths taken by members of Parliament. Sir G. GRAY also intimated the probability that a Government bill on the ecclesiastical commission would be brought forward.

In reply to a question by Mr. WYLD,

LORD PALMERSTON stated that her Majesty's Government were about to station, on both sides of the coast of Central America, such a naval force as they should think necessary for the protection of British interests. The noble lord proceeded to describe the state of relations existing between the Governments of New Granada and the United States, casting much blame on the former, and then stated that her Majesty's Government had been in communication with the United States Government on this matter, and he was happy to say that the United States Government professed most just and honourable intentions. They disclaim any intention either of occupying any portion of the territory of New Granada, or of occupying the railway.

Leave was given to Mr. DILLWYN to bring in his bill of last year to repeal the act 16 and 17 Vic. ch. 30, and to make better provision for the prevention of aggravated assaults upon women and children.

On the motion of Mr. HARDY, the house resolved itself into a committee on the Sale of Beer Acts, when that hon. member moved for leave to introduce a bill identical with that of last session on the sale of beer. By his bill he proposed to place beershops under the same conditions as to obtaining licenses with public-houses; he also proposed to license coffee-shops and places of public entertainment. Mr. K. Seymour opposed the bill.

SIR G. GRAY, in answer to Sir J. Pakington, said he could not promise to support the measure, but thought its discussion would prove beneficial. Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

MR. LOCKE KING in a very brief speech moved for leave to introduce a bill to abolish property qualifications for members of Parliament.—LORD PALMERSTON observed, that he thought it had been the understanding of the house that all questions connected with the representation of the people in Parliament should be postponed until the next session, and that such matters should not be brought under discussion in the meantime. He did not think the hon. gentleman had shown any considerable grounds for the bill, but he would not oppose its introduction.

The Hindson's Bay Company and Bank Act Committees, and also those on public petitions and public moneys, were then nominated, and the house having passed in committee an ordinary resolution of supply, adjourned at a quarter past six.

It is confidently asserted in some quarters that the present Solicitor-General has actually resigned his appointment. The truth, we believe, is, that an understanding has been come to that he will resign after the lapse of a month if his health is not then sufficiently re-established to admit of discharging his duties. But practically the choice now open to the Government is limited to those lawyers who have seats in the new House; amongst these the first names that occur are those of Mr. Serjeant Kinglake, Mr. Keating, Mr. Collier, and Mr. Atherton.—*Daily News*.

The Emperor and Empress, the Grand Duchess of Baden, and the Grand Duke Constantine, left Paris on Monday for the Chateau of Fontainbleau, where they will pass a few days.

A Piedmontese man-of-war is shortly to leave for China to co-operate with the British fleet.

MARK-LANE—THIS DAY.

To-day's market was well supplied with English wheat, mostly left over from Monday. The attendance of buyers was limited, and the demand for all kinds of wheat of home produce ruled heavy, at 15/- per quarter beneath last Friday's currency. Foreign wheat—the show of which was tolerably good—was very dull, and the quotations were almost nominal. We had a moderate inquiry for barley, at full price; but malt commanded very little attention. There was a good demand for oats, at fully the late improvement in value. Beans and peas were firm, but flour ruled heavy.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour.
English	1570	—	910	240	1200
Irish	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign	950	5110	—	2650	—

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A Scottish correspondent, in reference to a remark in our last number on the proposed union of the Free and United Presbyterian Churches, is anxious it should be known that the Free Church is also Presbyterian, which no one would think of disputing, and that besides these organizations and the Establishment itself, there are other Presbyterian Churches north of the Tweed. We can assure our correspondent that every southerner looks upon Scotland as to all intents and purposes Presbyterian.

** In consequence of the many demands upon our space, we are obliged to omit several communications from correspondents.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1857.

SUMMARY.

THE Queen's Speech has almost ceased to be a document expressing anything more than facts and platitudes; and if the "Message" which last Thursday inaugurated the session was formal and meagre, no one need feel surprised. The characteristic feature of the Speech is the preponderance of foreign topics. Domestic politics are dismissed in one paragraph,—our foreign relations occupy no less than nine; conveying the impression to the uninitiated that the Legislature is principally occupied with the affairs of other countries. Lord Palmerston, even when holding out the distant promise of a Reform Bill, cannot forget that he is best known to the world as Foreign Minister of Great Britain. But we care not to discuss in detail a Speech so cautiously framed that it was disposed of in both Houses in the space of two hours. Though we hear that the differences between the High Commissioner of Canton and the British officials remain unadjusted, stress is laid upon the sending out of a Plenipotentiary "fully instructed to deal with all matters of differences;" and the despatch of "an adequate naval and military force" to support him, is mentioned rather incidentally than prominently. We wish we could hope that this mode of dealing with the subject were confirmation of the reports from Paris that the differences with Commissioner Yeh are likely to be settled without further hostilities. The reference to Persia reminds us that the treaty agreed to at Paris has not yet been ratified by the Shah, upon whom the news of the capture of Mohammorah, with a loss of 200 lives, and the flight of his army of defence, may produce an effect not favourable to immediate peace. The least satisfactory paragraph of the Speech is the allusion to our relations with the United States. "The negotiations in which her Majesty has been engaged with the Government of the United States and with the Government of Honduras in regard to the affairs of Central America have not yet," it is said, "been brought to a close." In other words, the alterations made in the Central American Treaty by the Senate at Washington, have not yet been accepted by her Majesty's Government. As the matter is in the hands of Lord Clarendon and Mr. Dallas, who negotiated the original treaty, there is little ground for apprehension. Never at any former period has there been less disposition on either side of the Atlantic to foment jealousy, or magnify petty differences. Mr. Dallas is not more acceptable in London than is Lord Napier at New York. The cordial brotherly feeling so often expressed by the American Ambassador in England, has been repeated with

emphasis by the English Ambassador in America. Our Minister has been addressing a New York audience in a strain worthy of the responsible post he holds. He assured his audience that he had been received with cordiality and friendship by the Executive of the United States, from the President downwards, and that there was no question between the two countries "involving any degree of anxiety or apprehension." The only "entangling alliance" he should think of recommending was "the submarine cable." These fresh evidences of international good feeling are doubly welcome at a time when fresh complications have arisen in New Granada, which may necessitate further diplomatic negotiations relative to the Panama route.

The debate on the Address in the House of Lords was in no wise remarkable. Lord Malmesbury supplied the place of the Earl of Derby as leader of the Opposition, by criticising the policy of the Government, and strongly censuring the unwarrantable language of Lord Palmerston in aspersing the motives of his opponents on the China question. Earl Grey threatened further discussions both on this subject and on the Persian war, taking the opportunity of stating some facts relative to our treatment of the Celestials not very creditable to British honour. The mention of Parliamentary Reform in the hereditary House shows how strong a hold the question has taken upon the public. Even the mover of the Address, the Marquis of Townshend, went out of his way to express a regret that the subject was not alluded to in the Queen's Speech; and the Earl of Albemarle not unreasonably complained that though a definite promise of a Reform Bill had been given elsewhere, no allusion to the matter had been made by the Ministers in their lordships' House. It was, he said, about a quarter of a century since they had had any organic change, since which time very extensive social improvements had taken place. "While the country had increased in population and wealth, it had advanced also in the mechanic arts and in intelligence, and therefore was the more fitted for an extensive measure of reform." It is pleasant to quote such sentiments as coming from a member of the House of Peers.

Their lordships have commenced applying themselves with diligence to the work of practical legislation. Lord Campbell has obtained a Select Committee on the Law of Libel with the view of extending the reporting privileges of newspapers. The Lord Chancellor, whose reported probable retirement from the woolsack was, perhaps, no more than a groundless rumour, has re-introduced his Probate and Divorce Bills, with some alterations which appear to have removed the objections of Lord Campbell. His new Court of Probate is to be separated in every way, not only from the Court of Chancery, but from every judge in that Court, and he has struck out from the latter measure the clause permitting parties any day to dissolve marriage. The Lords, equally with the Commons, have evidently commenced the broken session with the intention of expediting business and insuring an early prorogation.

In the Metropolis a very vigorous movement has commenced for the equalisation of the poor-rates. The question has a wide bearing upon the social condition of the poorer classes of London. At present the pressure of local taxation is most unequal. The rich West-end lightly escapes the burden—the East-end, where the great masses of working men reside, groans under the weight of the tax. Thus, the principle that the rich ought to pay for the poor is evaded by the limited area of taxation that prevails in London. By this means the operatives are driven to one district of the great city, oftentimes a considerable distance from their work, the parishes where they reside are unfairly taxed, and the wealthy denizens of the squares and terraces of Belgravia and Tyburnia escape with merely nominal rates. Another effect of this unequal taxation is pointed out in a resolution adopted the other day at the meeting at the London Coffee-house. "This law," it is remarked, "besides being unjust to the rate-payer, is injurious to the best interests of the poor; for whilst it compels them to reside in the poorer districts at a distance from their employment, and at an extravagant rent, it also induces them to herd together in a manner alike destructive of health and morality, utterly subversive of those habits of decency and cleanliness so essential to domestic comfort and the well-being of a community." The grievance has been laid before the President of the Board of Trade, but Mr. Bouverie sees great difficulty in a uniform rate for the Metropolis, and holds out no prospect of alteration. Another evil incident to the social condition of London was revealed a few days ago by the sad catastrophe in Tottenham-court-road, when three houses fell down with a crash, burying twelve persons beneath the ruins, of whom only seven escaped with life. Two rival upholsterers have been adding house to house, withdrawing the party-walls, and burnishing up

the frontages with stucco. They have been stopped in their plans of decoration by the tumbling down of the whole mass. We hope that a thorough investigation will fix the blame in the right quarter. The fatal event has called attention to the insecurity of London houses. "Miles upon miles of street in this great brick and mortar Babylon," remarks the *Daily News*, "are the results of building speculation on ninety-nine years' leases. If the dwellings of which they are composed outlast the century, they endure beyond the period for which they were originally constructed. When we consider this fact, and further recollect that Metropolitan Building Acts are the growth of comparatively recent legislation, the wonder will be, not that the downfall of London houses is so frequent, but that it is so rare."

A tragic episode has marked the conclusion of the Persian war, which Lord Granville says has now ceased. Scarcely was the capture of Mohammorah at the mouth of the Euphrates effected, than two of the leaders of the expedition, General Stalker, Commander of the Forces, and Commodore Etheridge, of the Navy, committed suicide—the one from chagrin and a sense of responsibility, the other from long-continued anxiety connected with the duties of his command. Nor is the position of our troops in the Persian Gulf an enviable one, exposed as they are to the malaria of an unwholesome country, with hot weather approaching.

Royal visits are the chief items of continental news. Prince Napoleon has gone to Berlin with the object, it is supposed, of inducing the King of Prussia to accept the terms of settlement of the Neufchâtel dispute, agreed to by the arbitrating Powers. The Emperor of Austria is making a progress through Hungary, where he has been moderately well received. He promises "to examine in person into the condition and necessities" of the country, but does not engage to redress grievances. It would be something to the purpose if he conceded local government in civil matters, and perfect freedom of worship and of religious education. Instead of this tangible boon, he has proclaimed an amnesty to political prisoners now in custody—a limitation that deprives it of all importance. Of course Kossuth and his faithful fellow-exiles are as much excluded from the benefits of this "act of grace" as were the expatriated Lombard patriots. And we suspect that the moral result of the Imperial visit will be no greater in the one case than in the other. Even the Head of the Papal Church has taken it into his head to make a tour of inspection through his worldly kingdom. The Grand Duke Constantine is being fitted and lionised in Paris, and is ere long to pay a flying and private visit to Queen Victoria at Osborne. We need hardly call attention to the important letter inserted elsewhere on the condition of the coloured population of British Guiana.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

As the continuation of our "Notes from the House of Commons" during the present session, at least, has been placed beyond our power, we propose to substitute for them as brief, pungent, and connected a comment upon the business of the House of Commons as our study of the newspaper reports and our knowledge of leading statesmen and members will enable us to put together. We are aware that this will appear somewhat insipid in comparison of those descriptions of persons, scenes, and impressions which none but an eye-witness can successfully pourtray, and that a graphic statement of facts is much more highly relished than a string of political reflections. But we flatter ourselves upon being qualified by experience to afford our readers much interesting information, and to set before them from week to week such a substantial record of Parliamentary proceedings, together with such garniture of personal and political gossip, as may be at once instructive and entertaining. At any rate, we shall make the attempt—confiding in the good nature of our readers to bear this necessary alteration of Parliamentary diet with as much equanimity, and as few wry faces, as possible.

Thursday last was the actual commencement of the new session. We can well imagine it. The crowd of new members before two o'clock—the solemn entrance of the Speaker—the reading of prayers—the hum of conversation—the announcement of Black Rod—the advance of Sir Augustus Clifford to the table—the command uttered for the attendance of the House in the House of Lords—the unruly procession thither—the piecemeal return—and the adjournment to five o'clock. We can imagine how many of the recently elect would look upon those five Commissioners in scarlet and ermine, seated in a row on the woolsack, and wearing their three-cornered hats, with curiosity, not altogether unmixed with disgust. We can imagine them rushing down to the House at an early hour of the afternoon in anticipation of an exciting debate and an outburst of high Parliament-

ary eloquence. Well, the House is assembled after the adjournment, and is well-filled of course. One of the members appears in a court suit, and another in a deputy-lieutenant's uniform. They are to be the mover and seconder of the Address. There is no private business to be gone through—but a tolerable string of notices of motions, conspicuous amongst which is one given by Mr. Roebuck, on the subject of Parliamentary Reform. This done, Mr. Dodson moves the Address in a speech which is chiefly an amplification of the text furnished by the Lords Commissioners' speech of the morning, and Mr. Buchanan seconds it, going out of his way to read a lecture to the rejected, and to endorse the Ministerial policy in reference to hostilities in China. This is too much for General Thompson, who, like a brave man, enters a forcible protest against what he described as an "atrocious," and declares his intention of once more bringing it before the inquest of the country. Good, quiet, high-minded, but Whiggish Lord Robert Grosvenor follows, expressing disappointment that great questions of political and social reform should have been left unmentioned by the Royal Speech—and hinting to Lord Palmerston that unless the Government intended to deal with the Church-rate question this session, he himself would bring in a measure on the subject. Honest but feeble Mr. Ewart has a short and unimportant say, of course, and then Lord Palmerston rises to put an end to uncertainty. His speech was short, but it declared two or three things about which public curiosity was beginning to get restless. First of all, he let the House know pretty distinctly that the present session will be occupied mainly in dealing with the *remants* of last session. Secondly, that some measure for the settlement of the Church-rate controversy may, *perhaps*, be introduced by the Government—that is, if they can master the difficulties which surround the question. Thirdly, that the noble lord hoped—indeed was confident—that at the beginning of the next session he would be able to propose a measure of Parliamentary Reform, which will "be calculated to satisfy the just expectations of any parties, to correct any defects which may exist in the present Reform Act, and to admit to the franchise those classes of persons who at present are excluded from it." Mr. Roebuck, anxious to put a more definite interpretation on the noble Premier's announcement than the words themselves warrant, chose to understand it as a distinct pledge, which, certainly, the noble lord did not deny, and in the faith of its being so understood, the honourable and learned member withdrew the notice of motion which he had given an hour or two before. The ceremony was at an end. No one sought to prolong the conversation, and the House adjourned very soon after six o'clock.

Proceedings on Friday were quite as brief and rather tamer, if possible, than on Thursday. Mr. Spooner provoked the laugh with which he is familiar on renewing his notice for the repeal of the Maynooth Grant. Mr. Lindsay, on the motion of adjournment till Monday, brought forward the case of the *Transit*, whose misfortunes have obtained for her a world-wide celebrity, when Sir Charles Wood proved by the most incontestable evidence (derived, no doubt, from dock-yard authorities) that she is one of the safest, swiftest, and most carefully appointed transports in her Majesty's navy. Surely, then, the legitimate inference is, or should be, that every disaster which has befallen her has either been imagined by the fanciful, or misrepresented by the timid. Let us hope, for the sake of the eight hundred souls on board, that she will reach her remote destination.

Monday night produced a second edition of the Transportation and Ticket-of-leave debate. We have the old bill, the old speakers, and, without any very considerable variation, the old speeches. We shall be the more readily excused, therefore, from attempting any analysis of what was said either upon that subject, or upon the other *réchauffés* questions of Savings' Banks, and Industrial Schools. The House is on the line which it had marked out for itself in February. Only, in consequence of the dissolution, it is compelled by form to begin over again. In fact, we seem to be listening to an *encore*. Mr. Hardy re-introduces his Sale of Beer Bill—Sir Erskine Perry his Bill for Protecting the Property of Married Women—Mr. Headlam his Medical Profession Bill—Mr. McMahon his Irish Fisheries—Mr. Berkeley the Ballot—Mr. Locke King the ten pound county franchise. We observe but one novelty, and that is the notice of the last-named gentleman to bring in a bill for abolishing the property qualification of members. We are glad to see the question in his hands—and we may almost venture to predict for him success.

DOLCE FAR NIENTE.

Hurrah for humbug; thorough, undisguised, transparent humbug!—humbug that leers at you in the very act of palming off upon you the stalest pretence,—humbug that you know to be

humbug, and that you are humbug enough to receive as though you had no glimmer of suspicion that it is anything but a solid reality! Hurrah for the idol of the age! Let bishops bless it! Let religious journals smother it with incense! Let merchants and brokers bring sacrifices to its altar! Let constituencies rally around it! Let candidates profess it! Let representatives cheer it to the echo! Let honest men seem to have faith in it! Let everybody dissemble, not so much with a view to deceive, but because to dissemble is as much the rage just now as long dresses and ample crinoline were a few months ago! Humbug is the fashion in high places, and the people dance round it and shout "These be thy gods!"

We wonder how the opening of Parliament, the Royal speech, the vapid discussions, and the editorial articles, with which society has been amused or bored during the past week, would strike an intelligent and well-informed stranger. Who can forget the commotion, the contests, the fierce struggles of a month ago? The country was in pangs, giving being and birth to a representative organ of legislation. Members go up fresh from the hustings to the new Palace at Westminster. They swear to oaths which have no significance, and, as Mr. Harry Chester says, solemnly and profanely call God to witness "that they will not do what no human being has the least idea that any one of them will ever wish to do." They are addressed in a speech which is called royal, and which everybody knows is the speech of the Ministry. And what a speech! Matters not relating to the purpose for which mainly they have come together, dilated upon as a decent conventionality, while matters relating to the purpose are left unmentioned. O the heartlessness of the formality! But it does not end there. By all means, it is necessary to establish a complicity in humbug between the country and the Government—between Parliament and Palmerston. And so two members, arraying themselves in ridiculous attire, call upon the House to "say after us," and lo! an address to the Throne repeats in almost self-same language the speech from the Throne. It is customary humbug, and therefore cannot, of course, be dispensed with. It means nothing, and therefore it is the more important to adhere to the precedent with religious tenacity. It deceives nobody, and therefore it is worth a nation's while to practise upon itself a fraud which does not take it in.

Well, well, this we must say of Lord Palmerston, that he is fully qualified to play his part in the political farce. Never were silly nursery-maids more cleverly or impudently decoyed into parting with their wages by a black-eyed, sunburnt, scarlet-cloaked gipsy fortune teller, than is the House of Commons into parting with its professions and principles by that gay and crafty old diplomatist, Lord Palmerston. Nay! that is not a parallel case—for it supposes simple good faith deluded by cunning. But no one will suspect the House of Commons of believing in Palmerston's promise of abolishing Church-rates this session, and reforming Parliament the next. Why, he has had the skill to convey his promises in words which are dexterously strung together to *seem* a pledge without *being* one—and the House knows that he is contemplating evasion, if it be possible, at the very moment of giving utterance to his words. But, inasmuch as humbug is the order of the day, of course, every one feigns a satisfaction which he does not feel, or feels a satisfaction which he would be ashamed to express—so that "even Barnabas is carried away with their dissimulation," and the tribune of the people, Arthur Roebuck, sees no course left open to him but that of endeavouring to fasten upon the Premier a pledge which he carefully avoided giving.

And the country—that portion of it, we mean, which is represented in Parliament—likes to be thus deluded. At least, the delusion suits it just now. It is a pleasant, dreamy, morning-sleep sort of delusion. It seems to infer virtuous patriotism without demanding any unpleasant exercise of it. It gives the impression and feeling of political liberality without requiring any sacrifice for it. It is a species of castle-building in the air that just gratifies a consciousness of right-wishing without troubling one with immediate steps towards right-action. It tickles political sensibilities so lightly as to make you aware that there is life even though it is slumbrous. And so Palmerston is not believed, but is a favourite—is not trusted, but is popular. He seduces so bewitchingly that it is a pastime to listen to him. There is a charm in his very effrontery. His roguery is rather pleasant than otherwise. "Do that droll trick again," says John Bull, "never mind the expense—I have an excellent and increasing business. It is rather wicked, I suspect—but you do it so artistically." Or if we give a feminine personification to England, and try to interpret the somewhat capricious will of Britannia, the response to Pal-

merston runs thus—"O you gay deceiver, how often have you told me the same false tale, and made those same faithless vows—but there! I shall not be hard upon you for your inconstancy, for you keep me in excellent humour with myself!"

Yes! this is a period of popular confidence which the people themselves are more than half aware must prove in the end to be misplaced. But every one feels it to have become a sort of duty he owes to his neighbour to keep up the delusion. Why are "the accounts cooked" but with a view of "making things pleasant"? Meanwhile our reputation stands high in the market, and commerce expands. It is churlish to criticise minutely. So thought many a shareholder and sharebroker of King Hudson, who fawned upon him when his financial *charlatanerie* was successful, and who cut him with virtuous scorn when the collapse came. So think myriads of Palmerston, the lucky political gamester of the times. Do not his "promises to pay" keep up prices of all sorts, and encourage speculators of every variety? Why, then, should we open our eyes to trouble? It will come soon enough when it comes.

Hurrah, then, once more, for humbug! for that ingenious art which persuades us that we are doing something, or would do if we could, while we are doing nothing! The expertest master of the art is at the head of affairs, and the country wants to believe in him. Is it not so? What other theory will explain the events of this last week? What other hypothesis will solve the seeming incompatibility of a House of Commons, returned on reform principles, contenting itself with a shadowy promise (couched in ambiguous terms, and extorted from a reluctant minister to save himself from the necessity of a more definite pledge), that next session he hopes, nay, is confident, he may be able to propose a satisfactory measure? If this is not a true interpretation of the mystery, what is? We will gladly surrender our theory for a more reasonable one, especially if at the same time it is also more flattering.

ART-TREASURES AT OLD TRAFFORD.

MANCHESTER has added to its glories, and half redeemed itself from reproach. A crown of beauty shines now upon the brow of strength. The mightiest of modern industries takes lovingly the hand of art. Wealth is purged of its vulgarity by munificent devotion to intellect. The dull processes of production and exchange—the conversion of raw material into fabric, and of fabric into money—have been enlivened by a burst of enthusiasm for the productions of genius and the traffic of taste. Nor is the enthusiasm of that cheap and evanescent sort which exacts no effort, and leaves no trace. It is the product of a solid appreciation, a generous rivalry, and a daring ambition. The art-treasures contributed to the Exhibition at Old Trafford, by princes, nobles, merchant princes, and ancient English gentry, have not been costless to the borrowers. Not for nothing have jewels which no money could replace been spared from their accustomed caskets. A guarantee of their safe return was first subscribed by men whose names stand for thousands of pounds each. And not without risk was the Exhibition itself. Strong faith in the character of their countrymen was needed by the builders of a people's palace, which royalty might be proud to inaugurate, and the multitude rejoice to throng, but in which the hand of an idiot might destroy some trophy of the power of genius over time itself.

We are heartily glad that Manchester has thus gained a new distinction. We have never believed that commerce is more sordid than agriculture, nor that Manchester is more devoted to money getting than Liverpool or Glasgow. But the truth is, all trade has a vulgarising influence; and the more successful trader is the less likely to be a man of taste,—so long as he continues in trade. The gentleman-farmer, who ploughs paternal acres, or the landholder who takes the rent of fields on which he never turned a clod, can afford the money to buy pictures, and the leisure to appreciate his purchases. But the manufacturer or merchant, all whose thoughts must be given to mechanical details or market price,—who has no time to admire the engine that will ruin if it does not enrich him,—whose social existence depends upon the fluctuation of influences uncontrollable as the tides, and uncertain as the winds,—cannot be expected to understand the points of a statue, or rejoice over an antique. He is in much the same condition as the husbandman, whose foot is always heavy with clay, and whose mind is summarised in the wish for rain or sunshine. The love of art is usually a sign of leisure, and leisure, of prosperity. Here and there, an errand-boy with half-filled belly hungers for the sight of beauty,—and a struggling trader ventures his guinea in a picture lottery,—but it is only here and there. The danger is that the taste may not come with the means of indulgence

—that the man and city growing old in money-making, may out-grow the natural instinct for the artistic. It is, therefore, a cause of rejoicing that Manchester has given a world-conspicuous proof of that superiority to materialising influences for which many have given her private credit,—and elevates herself in the sight of all men, among those glorious commonwealths of Italy, Holland, and Germany, which turned into the marble and canvass of art the gold procured by commerce.

But there is a far higher cause of gratification in the Art-Treasures Exhibition. Not only is Manchester honoured—and with it all England—but the people are benefited. Thanks to that railway system of which Lancashire is the centre, the whole population of our isle may profit by and take pleasure in the store of instructive delights now provided at Old Trafford. From Aberdeen to Penzance, from Hull to Holyhead, and even to Galway, the people may run to and fro upon the roads of iron, and upon the feet of steam. Science proves indeed the brother of art—Vulcan lends his strength to Venus—the brute elements of fire and water become the servants of human industry, hastening to the festival of god-like genius—"godlike" without profane hyperbole. For do not the conceptions of poetic intellect, embodied in form and colour, raise the human a step nearer to the divine? Is not the artist himself a type of that creative spirit of whose Thought the material universe is but the expression? Is not the lover of art by that love ennobled and refined—taught to prefer the pleasures of the soul to those of the senses, or at any rate to invest the sensuous with the graces of the spiritual?

THE ANNIVERSARIES.

THE increasing disposition to co-operate in the great work of evangelisation, is a marked feature in the religious meetings of the season; and, though we have no faith in a mere organisation to promote brotherly love, and hold fast to our Anti-State Church principle, as a surer if slower means of promoting that object, we can meanwhile rejoice as much as any at the breaking down of every barrier of separation between Christians. We are neither surprised nor grieved that many ministers and gentlemen identified with the Liberation of Religion Society should be found occupying the same platform with bishops and clergymen in promoting the spiritual interests of mankind. The work to be done by Bible Societies, Ragged School Unions, City Missions, and kindred associations, is sufficiently vast and pressing to need the co-operation of all earnest men. It is gratifying to notice among members of the Church of England a marked increase of liberality. The Earl of Shaftesbury does not stand alone among his Episcopal brethren, in giving the right-hand of fellowship to members of other denominations. The Bishop of London does not think himself guilty of schism, because he joins with Dissenters in advocating the Bible Society; for, as he frankly confessed, "the occasions were not many in which Churchmen were able to meet their brother Christians of other bodies, to help them, as the latter had helped the Church in the cause of Christ." The Dean of Carlisle (the Rev. J. Close) also, says that he can honour and respect the independence of opinion, sincerity of conscience, and honesty of purpose, which led Baptist Noel "to give up all those things which poor, weak, feeble men are apt to love, in Church and State, by going out from her."

The Bible Society, at the Anniversary Meeting of which these pleasing allusions were made, can rejoice in an augmentation of its income to the extent of nearly 10,000*l.* At the Exeter Hall meeting, China engaged a large share of attention. Among other facts of interest we learn that about 80,000 copies out of the million New Testaments provided had been circulated, and it was found that no more than these could be distributed profitably. In fact, the whole of the mission agency in China had not hands enough for the distribution of more than had been disposed of. The Church Missionary Society's Anniversary assumed somewhat of a political character, by the adoption of a resolution, condemning the conduct of the Chinese—a question which propriety ought to have excluded from a strictly religious meeting. But the Bishop of Victoria, who spoke on the subject, not only vindicated Sir John Bowring, but inveighed against the Manchou rulers of China, and in favour of Taiping Wang, who he trusts will be patronised by Lord Palmerston. The differences which have arisen in Canton are, he says, a proof that England is impelled by Providence to plant in the East the seeds of civilisation and Gospel truth. We had thought the immoral doctrine that the sword and the Bible were to go hand in hand in evangelising the world was nearly exploded. Providence may educe good out of evil and make crime itself promote His own wise and beneficent purposes. But is man then to set at defiance the laws of God in order to enlarge the field of "Gospel truth?" Without depreciating what

has been done by devoted missionaries in China, we incline to think that the East India Company and British merchants have exercised a more extensive influence, not to "plant the seeds of civilisation," but of that hateful drug which entails misery and destruction upon its consumers. The opium traffic belies all such sad and deceptive statements as that put forth by the Bishop of Victoria, and we are glad to see that at one after another of the May meetings this trade in poison has been denounced as the main obstacle to the spread of "Gospel truth" in the Chinese empire.

With our democratic sympathies and dislike of mammon and title worship, we observe with pleasure, at a time when "Traviata" is the lion of fashionable society, that so many among the higher ranks have not bowed the knee to Baal, and are personally labouring to advance our common Christianity. Lord John Russell once more appears as the advocate of ragged-schools, and his brother Charles not only heartily testifies to the usefulness of the City Mission, but recommends that society to initiate some efforts for the amelioration of the physical condition of the working classes, and the assembly of a missionary conference from the various societies. At the meeting of the City Mission, the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel stated some facts which indicate the working of a leaven of earnest practical religion in the upper strata of society.

He rejoiced that so much progress had been made in the cause of late years; society was on its way to something better than it had seen before. It was only the other day that he met with two young men, and one man in middle life. One of these was the heir of a marquis, and taught a village class in a Sabbath-school; another was the heir of a rich Whig earl, and he also taught in a Sabbath-school; and the other was a baronet who had extensive property, and who often went in the train from his place in Parliament to his own house on the Saturday, studying his lessons for the Sabbath-school on the next day. (Cheers.) He knew also another earl who had been almost run over in the streets of London when distributing religious tracts, and who was apprehended in the Tuilleries for delivering tracts among some officials in that palace, though as soon as he was known he was released from the officious gendarmes. How numerous also were the acts of great liberality performed by such men!

The Ragged School Union meeting was eloquent in figures and facts that will suffice to silence the railers at Exeter Hall, and suggest their own reflections. 22,000 children share the parental care of this society, but an equal number remain, as the young Arabs of our metropolis, without education or training. So great has been the success of the Shoe-Black organisation, that a brigade is to be organised in Belgravia, and a Street Crossing fraternity to be formed out of the same elements. The Penny Banks can boast of more than 10,000 depositors, and 70 teachers in the schools were formerly ragged scholars. Yet, in the face of such pleasing signs of usefulness, the funds of this excellent institution languish.

The first day's meeting of the Congregational Union, reported elsewhere, calls for little remark. An endeavour was made, but without success, to erase the name of Dr. Campbell from the list of the Committee for the ensuing year, on account of the peculiar mission which he has assumed as a public man, and because several of the names of gentlemen formerly on the Committee, opposed to the Doctor, had been removed. A proposition to remove him from the editorship of the magazines did not even meet with a second! These publications are, in accordance with the recommendation of the Special Committee, to be transferred from the Union to a body of forty-eight trustees, half of them laymen. The question of the affiliated Societies is deferred till Friday's meeting. It would seem that all parties are now tired of the "Rivulet" hubbub, and anxious to forget the past. We have no space to comment upon this curious issue of a lengthened controversy.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE Metropolis just now caters for every taste, from the grave to the gay. The former have a considerable range of choice. If their sympathies lean towards Exeter Hall and its associations, there will to-morrow be the additional attraction of Dr. Livingstone, the intrepid missionary explorer, who, it seems, has been induced for that occasion only to lay aside the pen and appear again before a London audience. Of the nature of his reception none can doubt. One can scarcely recommend, just now, a prolonged visit to the gallery of the House of Commons; for now that Parliament has doggedly settled down to business with a view to wind up as soon as possible, the scene is scarcely more interesting or intelligible than the Royal Exchange at high noon to the casual visitor. One of the sights of London is at the present the new library of the British Museum—the dome of which is very highly praised. "Except the Pantheon in Rome," says a critical pen, "there is nothing like it in Europe." Our architects, indeed, seem to have awakened from the sleep of indolence, and to be putting forth powers that astonish the world. In Westminster Hall may now be seen by the public nearly two hundred designs, illus-

trated by numerous and beautiful drawings, sent in by architects who are competing for the new Government offices. They are well worthy of inspection, and a monument of the industry and ability of their authors. Judging from these specimens, the Gothic and Mediæval styles have somewhat gone out of fashion, and the French or Italian Renaissance taken their place. We almost shudder to think of the wrath this exhibition will excite in the breast of the Gothic Mr. Ruskin, who has, if we recollect aright, described the Renaissance as the "infidel" style of architecture. An anti-Ruskinite says that the designs in Westminster Hall are "generally in good taste, founded on a basis of common sense."

In addition to the Royal Academy, the National Institution, and the Water Colour Exhibitions, there is an Exhibition of French paintings, which is highly praised by the journals, and contains productions from the easel of Ross Bonheur, Horace Vernet, Scheffer, Biard, and Isabey. The painting of the great female artist of France, which is a quiet one, is called "Denizens of the Highlands." "On a Highland stony heath, grey dashed with purple, stand three shambling, awkward savages, horned and hooved, red, brown, and a dull yellowish grey,—their very breath painted, and a streak of light hinting the loch far away below to the left. The unwieldy strength, so truly given, the rough texture of wayward hair, and the low tone of colour, are all characteristic of this great painter." There is also a clever portrait of Ross Bonheur leaning on a bull, by M. Dubufe.

The literary novelties of the week are not very considerable. Dr. Barth, the African traveller, anticipates Dr. Livingstone by the publication of three out of five volumes of "Travels and Discoveries in North and Central Africa; being a journal of an expedition undertaken under the auspices of her Britannic Majesty's Government in the years 1849-55." Colonel Lake's "Narrative of the Defence of Kars, Historical and Military," is also ready. We are sorry to find that, even in this volume, justice is not done to the merits and services of General Kutney. "The Life of Handel," by Victor Schœlcher, the French refugee, is a well-timed book at a period when the Handel festival is exciting so much interest. The book contains much new material, but is said to err on the side of partiality. It is pleasant, however, to find expatriated Frenchmen like Victor Hugo, Louis Blanc, and Victor Schœlcher, thus worthily employing their enforced exile.

Speaking of Handel reminds us that the Festival Committee have adopted a very wise suggestion. On and after Monday next a limited number of tickets will be issued for admittance to the north and south naves of the Crystal Palace on the three days of the Festival at half-a-guinea each. It seems that the space allotted will be provided with seats, but the places will not be reserved or numbered. The guinea tickets, which admit to the central transept, seem to go off well, and are said to be nearly all sold. There is no doubt that the Festival will be a signal success.

What progress is really making in the immense orchestra in the central transept for this imposing musical display, we cannot say. Last Friday when we looked in, there was nothing Handelian to be seen. The great orchestra was invisible, and in its place, or rather in front of it, stood the blue orchestra, which told of the opera concert glories of last year, with an improvised concert room under the central transept. The company change the interior of their Palace as though simply shifting the scenes of a theatre! Well, on Friday last there was Mr. Gye's unrivalled opera troupe of last year, including such celebrities as Grisi, Marai, Didié, Devries, Gardoni, Ronconi, Polonini, and Neri Baraldi. Mario was not present in consequence of hoarseness, but is to appear next Friday. Perhaps the most effective piece performed was a charming old madrigal sung with great expression by Mr. Costa's efficient chorus. English part music is certainly making way. Some 4,000 persons were present to enjoy, not only the exquisite music, but the fine weather and the subsequent display of fountains.

The Surrey Gardens opened for the season on Monday with—a concert and fireworks! no indeed—but with the oratorio of *Elijah*! Is not this significant of improved public taste, and not the less so of Mendelssohn's popularity? Though unable to be present, we understand there was an immense crush of people, who overflowed not only the grand Music Hall, but the gardens. M. Jullien certainly yields a magician's wand. His continuous success marks him out as the Napoleon of musical conductors. Last night there were to be the usual concerts and pyrotechnic displays. It appears that Miss Louisa Vining is nightly engaged for a time.

On Monday night two rather celebrated lecturers took, we were going to say, "the boards"—we mean the platform. These were Mr. Russell, the well-known Crimean correspondent of the *Times*, who drew almost all the literary world of London to hear the first portion of his personal narrative of the great campaign in the Crimea. He was most cordially received, and seems to have achieved a success. "Few lecturers (says the *Times*) have ever undertaken so weighty a task as Mr. Russell. His discourse lasted for full two hours and a half, and required greater exertion at the end than at the beginning. He departed from the platform followed by loud acclamations, and will resume his narrative on Thursday next." On Monday, Sir H. Rawlinson gave a lecture at the rooms of the Geographical Society, upon "Mohammed and the Chaabs Arabs." He presented a frightful picture of the unhealthiness, in the hot season, of

that place as well as Bushire, and appeared to think our troops could not possibly live in those regions. The best news we can hear from Sir J. Outram is that he has re-embarked the British or rather Indian regiments.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MOTIONS PRESENTED.

Extension of ~~the~~ ^{the} Ballot, for 1.
Jewish Disabilities, for amendment, 3.
Juvenile Education, for amending, 1.
Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, for repeal, 1.
Opium Trade, for prohibition.
Paper Duty, for amendment, 12.
Pois Law, for amendment, 1.
Sale of Beer, for amendment of law, 1.
Supernumerary Act, for amendment, 23.
Church-rates, for amendment of law, 2.
for abolition, 2.
against, 2.
Maynooth College Act, for repeal, 3.
Ship "Transit," for inquiry, 1.
Law of Settlement and Removal, for amendment, 1.
Weights and Measures, for uniform system, 1.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Outlaws Bill.
Transportation and Penal Servitude Bill.
Registration of Long Leases (Scotland) Bill.
Industrial Schools Bill.
Judgments, Execution, &c., Bill.
General Board of Health Bill.
Bankruptcy and Insolvency (Ireland) Bill.
Ecclesiastical Corporations Bill.

BILL READ A SECOND TIME.

Transportation and Penal Servitude Bill.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

On Thursday, both houses met for the first time for the despatch of business. The ceremonial was simple, and without excitement. At two o'clock the Royal Commissioners, the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Argyl, Lord Stanley of Alderley, and the Earl of Harrowby, entered the house and took their seats in front of the Throne, and the Usher of the Black Rod summoned the Commons, the Speaker being followed by a goodly number, chiefly of new members. The Lord Chancellor then read the following Royal Speech or "Message":—

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

We are commanded to inform you that her Majesty has availed herself of the earliest opportunity of having recourse to your advice and assistance after the dissolution of the last Parliament; and her Majesty trusts that there will be found sufficient time during the present session to enable you satisfactorily to deal with various important matters, some of which had occupied the attention of Parliament in the beginning of this year.

We are commanded by her Majesty to inform you that the general aspect of affairs in Europe affords a well-grounded confidence in the continuance of peace.

All the main stipulations of the Treaty of Paris have been carried into execution, and it is to be hoped that what remains to be done in regard to those matters will be speedily accomplished.

The negotiations upon the subject of the differences which had arisen between the King of Prussia and the Swiss Confederation, in regard to the affairs of Neufchâtel, are drawing to a close, and will, her Majesty trusts, be terminated by an arrangement honourable and satisfactory to all parties.

The negotiations in which her Majesty has been engaged with the Government of the United States, and with the Government of Honduras, in regard to the affairs of Central America, have not yet been brought to a close.

We are commanded by her Majesty to inform you that a Treaty of Peace between her Majesty and the Shah of Persia was signed at Paris on the 4th of March, by her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris and by the Ambassador of the Shah; and her Majesty will give directions that this treaty shall be laid before you as soon as the ratifications thereof shall have been duly exchanged.

Her Majesty commands us to express to you her regret that, at the date of the latest advices from China, the differences which had arisen between the High Commissioner at Canton and her Majesty's Civil and Naval Officers, in China, still remain unadjusted. But her Majesty has sent to China a Plenipotentiary fully instructed to deal with all matters of difference, and that Plenipotentiary will be supported by an adequate naval and military force, in the event of such assistance becoming necessary.

We are commanded to inform you that her Majesty, in conjunction with several other European Powers, has concluded a Treaty with the King of Denmark for the redemption of the Sound dues. This treaty, together with a Separate Convention between her Majesty and the King of Denmark, completing the arrangement, will be laid before you, and her Majesty will cause the measures necessary for fulfilling the engagements thereby contracted to be submitted for your consideration.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Her Majesty has directed the estimate for the present year to be laid before you.

They have been prepared with a careful attention to economy, and with a due regard to the efficiency of the departments of the public services to which they severally relate.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Her Majesty commands us to recommend to your earnest consideration, measures which will be proposed to you for the consolidation and improvement of the law.

Bills will be submitted to you for improving the laws relating to the Testamentary and Matrimonial Jurisdiction now exercised by the Ecclesiastical Courts, and also for checking fraudulent breaches of trust.

Her Majesty commands us to express to you her heartfelt gratification at witnessing the continued well-being and contentment of her people, and the progressive development of productive industry throughout her dominions.

Her Majesty confidently commits to your wisdom and care the great interests of her empire, and fervently prays that the blessing of Almighty God may be vouchsafed to your deliberations, and may lead you to conclusions conducive to the objects of her Majesty's constant solicitude, the welfare and happiness of her loyal and faithful people.

After the Royal Speech had been read, the Speaker and the members retired, and their lordships adjourned until five o'clock.

THE ADDRESS.

At a quarter-past five the House of Lords re-assembled, when the LORD CHANCELLOR having read her Majesty's Speech,

The Marquis of TOWNSHEND moved the Address. Adverting to the wars in Persia and China, he counselled a policy of firmness and energy, declaring that barbarous nations must, upon occasion, be forced into civilisation. Among topics not mentioned in the Speech, but "sure to find discussion in Parliament," he noticed Parliamentary Reform, the Abolition of Jewish Disabilities—of which he professed himself an earnest advocate, willing to see a Jew sitting, not only in the House of Commons, but in the hereditary branch of Legislature—and the settlement of the question of Church-rates. He had no doubt the noble lord at the head of the Government would propose a measure of reform quite as extensive as most of their lordships desired, and perhaps a good deal more so than some of them would like.

The Earl of PORTSMOUTH seconded the Address.

The Earl of MALMESBURY, lamenting the absence of Lord Derby, said he would make a vain attempt to fill his place. He found nothing in the Speech either to provoke discussion or call forth an amendment. But Lord Townshend had introduced subjects wisely omitted from the Speech, such as Parliamentary reform and Church-rates. Either would raise a discussion. "However the Speech of the noble marquis was subsequent to the Speech of her Majesty; and it is the Speech of her Majesty alone which is to be looked upon as authentic in this house, and in respect to which the Address is to be voted." Lord Malmesbury warmly took up the allusion to Lord Derby's speech, and strongly repudiated the charge that, to gain office, there were men who would degrade the British flag. That was Lord Palmerston's language in his Tiverton address, and there is no precedent for language such as that ever before proceeding from so high a source.

Lord GRANVILLE stated that a telegraphic message had been just received to the effect that Sir James Outram had been made aware on the 5th of April of the conclusion of peace between Persia and England. There need not, therefore, be any further fear of renewed hostilities in that quarter. In reply to Lord Malmesbury, he thought Lord Palmerston's language had been misinterpreted: but even if his noble friend went beyond the ordinary bounds, it was Lord Derby who at the close of the session gave a very strong personal description of Lord Palmerston, not borne out by the facts.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE called the attention of the Government to the attacks upon General Ashburnham.

Lord PANMURE had no hesitation in saying that the authors of those attacks were utterly unfit to hold the Queen's commission, and warmly defended General Ashburnham. He trusted that General Ashburnham, who had behaved with great gallantry, who had simply obeyed orders at Sobraon, and who had been rewarded by being made an aide-de-camp to her Majesty, would treat these attacks and their authors with the contempt they deserved.

Earl GREY called upon the Government to put down the system of newspaper criticism by subordinate officers, which would be fatal to real discipline in the army. He agreed in thinking that the Address ought to be presented unanimously to her Majesty, but as discussion must take place on the policy of the Persian war, it was desirable that the papers connected with that war should be laid before the house as speedily as possible. Again, with regard to China, it was absolutely necessary that some definite information as to the real object of the expedition recently sent to that empire should be afforded to the house. At present, all it knew was, that some vague extension of commerce and new facilities of trade were promised as the result of the expedition. With regard to the opinion expressed by a minority of that house as to the policy pursued by the British officials in China, he quite agreed with Lord Malmesbury in thinking that those who voted against the Government had a right to complain that their motives had been misrepresented. He then censured those who stir up vindictive passions against the Chinese. He could not palliate their atrocities, he could only reprobate them; but, in his opinion, the responsibility of their cruel and wicked acts lies with those who began, for no adequate object, the fearful contest of which these things are the natural issue. It is not becoming in Christians to hold up the Chinese as a nation for whom indiscriminate slaughter is the proper treatment, because they committed great cruelties under strong provocation.

The Earl of ALBEMARLE pointed out the omission of Parliamentary reform in the Speech. On that point ministers had offered no explanation. Yet he understood that in another place the expectation had been held out that a good measure of Parliamentary reform, and one that would satisfy those of their lordships who are most anxious for it, would be introduced. This was a question which he was aware ought in that august assembly to be mentioned with bated breath and whispering humbleness; but he trusted that the measure to be brought forward would be such as the majority of that house would with pleasure sanction.

No reply was offered, and the Address was agreed to unanimously.

Lord REDESDALE was re-elected Chairman of Committees, and the usual standing orders were agreed to.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Donson, member for East Sussex, in moving the Address to her Ma-

esty, passed in review the leading topics of the Speech of the Royal Commissioners.

Mr. BUCHANAN in seconding the motion, was more discursive. The verdict of the country, he said, had been favourable to Lord Palmerston's foreign policy. One thing was established beyond question—that neither eloquence nor valuable services would support statesmen who opposed themselves to the conviction of the country. The services of Mr. Cobden, the eminent talents of Mr. Gladstone, have not been forgotten; but "unsophisticated public opinion could neither comprehend their arguments nor appreciate their policy." Then he went into the Canton question. The public, he said, had remarked that, within the walls of Parliament, the whole argument had been conducted on narrow and technical grounds. The people were not anxious for a war with China, but they thought it necessary that there should be a clear expression of opinion in support of the honour and interests of the country. Our connection with China is peculiar. For two hundred years our sole representative was a trading company. The too pacific policy of the East India Company, not blameable in itself, has operated detrimentally to the interests of Great Britain; the servants of the company submitted to insulting treatment, and abjured the spirit of Englishmen; so that it was with the most vexatious and harassing negotiations and quarrels, when Britain put forward her power, that the treaty of Nanking was obtained. Even then, while in the northern ports the Europeans were well received, Canton closed its gates, and one of the stipulations of the treaty remained unfulfilled. The Chinese at Canton became more hostile and insulting. Under these circumstances, it was not to be supposed that the representatives of England would stand tamely by and see the flag of England outraged: had they done so, the arrogance of the Chinese would have been greater than ever. Nor do we meet the Chinese only in China; they are spread over the Indian Archipelago; the emigrants are connected with their country by secret societies; and the danger to our colonies by a weak policy is illustrated by the sanguinary proceedings at Sarawak. Lord Elgin would have to contend not only with the difficulties arising out of our relations with the Chinese, but out of the advances on the north-east of China of "a scheming and vicious power," Russia; advances calculated to excite alarm and apprehension. Mr. Buchanan touched on two or three other points. He protested in the name of humanity against the disgraceful deeds enacted in Southern Italy. He said that the extension of the franchise in this country must at no distant period occupy the Government. He was not one who thought that an extension of the franchise would secure a better House of Commons: he would not argue the question as one of expediency, but as a question that involves the rights of those who believe they are entitled to political power. If the franchise be extended, it will at the same time be necessary to establish a system of general education. With an allusion to the "excessive dearth of money," a state of things ruinous to commerce, he trusted that the committee on the Bank Charter Act would assemble with no foregone conclusion, "no monopoly influence, to prevent rigid inquiry and just legislation."

General THOMPSON protested against all he had heard on the subject of the Chinese question. Coinciding with the majority of the defunct house upon this question, he did not intend, he said, to let it pass without bringing it before the inquest of the country.

Lord R. GROSVENOR thought that, upon the present occasion, this question might be left in abeyance, but that some notice should be taken of the wishes of their constituents on the subject of the extension of the suffrage, certain practices at elections, and Church-rates. It would be a good thing if Lord Palmerston, to avoid perpetual Reform Bills, could devise something more elastic and self-acting than the Reform Bill of 1832. Deprecating any attempt to introduce a Reform Bill in this half-session, he hoped the Government would bring in a bill next session that would satisfy the country. Lord Robert also spoke of corrupt practices at elections, and promised to bring in a bill to prohibit the conveyance of electors by candidates, and to relieve the latter of the expense of the hustings. He was likewise prepared to propose a bill dealing with Church-rates.

Mr. WILLIAM EWART regretted that there was no allusion in the Speech from the Throne to the establishment of a Ministry of Justice. The honourable gentleman had no sooner resumed his seat than the cry of "Question" arose from all parts of the house. No member appearing disposed to continue the discussion, the SPEAKER after the lapse of two or three minutes began to read the terms of the motion, but he had not proceeded beyond the first few words when he was interrupted by

Lord PALMERSTON rose, and in reply to Mr. Ewart said, that the Government had under consideration the best means of accomplishing the object of a department of justice. With respect to the reform of the representation, he thought it would be highly inexpedient for the house to enter upon so large a subject during the present short session:—

But, Sir, her Majesty's Government quite admit that it will be their duty during the period that will intervene between the conclusion of the present session and the beginning of the next to take the subject into their fullest and most deliberate consideration. (Cheers.) It would be unsuitable in me, at a moment when the Government have not had an opportunity of giving to the question the consideration which is due, to say anything with respect to the details of measures to be proposed in a future session which would imply anticipatory conclusions, which, by fixing the Government upon one point or another, might lead afterwards to embarrassment if the

result should not coincide with the expectations excited, and which, at all events, would interfere with the freedom of our deliberations in the meantime. (Hear.) It will be, however, I believe, the duty of the Government in the ensuing recess to give that matter their most serious and anxious consideration—(hear, hear)—and I hope—indeed I am confident—that at the beginning of the next session we shall be able to propose to Parliament some measure which will be calculated to satisfy the just expectations of any parties, and to correct any defects which may exist in the present Reform Act, as well as to admit to the franchise those classes of persons who at present are excluded from it. (Hear, hear.) More than that I trust the house will not expect me to say at present. (Hear, hear.) If this house has confidence in the Government, they ought to show it by exercising forbearance, and by not pressing in this session for any declaration upon particular points in reference to the representative reform. If this house has not sufficient confidence in us to wait until the next session for the production of measures upon a subject requiring the gravest consideration, then it had better say so, and at once place the administration of the affairs of the country in other hands. ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.)

On the subject of Church-rate, the noble lord said:—

That also is a subject, as the house is aware, which abounds with practical difficulties. However, the subject is now under the consideration of her Majesty's Government, and I hope we may be able to propose some measure which will get rid of the difficulties at present existing. I hope, however, the house will not expect us to introduce any measure until we have made up our minds upon the matter, but I can assure them the subject is under consideration, with an anxious desire to frame a measure which may be satisfactory to all parties.

Mr. ROEBUCK, who had given notice of a motion on the reform question, said:—

I congratulate the house that we have now a distinct pledge from the noble lord that he intends next year to bring forward a measure of parliamentary reform. There is no mistake as to his intentions. The noble lord tells us that in the present state of the representation there are great anomalies—that various classes are not now represented in this house who deserve to be represented, and that it will be the duty of Her Majesty's Government during the recess to frame such a measure as will confer the representation upon these classes. Accepting these statements accordingly as I have described them, I can only say I am not one of those who might be inclined to interrupt the course of business in the present session. (Hear, hear.) Having a clear and distinct statement from the noble lord that it is his intention to deal with the question of parliamentary reform, I shall not interfere with his efforts by throwing any obstacle in his way. Such being the interpretation which I have placed upon the words of the noble lord, I thought it only right to state to this house, in plain and simple language, my view of the pledge which I believe he has given to us to-night. (Hear, hear.)

The address was then agreed to.

GENERAL ASHBURNHAM.

In the Lords on Friday, the Earl of CARDIGAN, advertizing to the attacks on General Ashburnham, insisted upon the necessity of finding means to prevent or punish the offences committed by junior officers of the army and navy in maligning their superiors through the public press.

Lord PANMURE replied, that in cases where inferior officers, either anonymously or otherwise, made attacks on the conduct of their superiors he should be happy to afford all the assistance in his power to bring the offenders to account. The case of Lord Cardigan was somewhat different, and, considering all the circumstances, he (Lord Panmure) had advised him to treat the accusations brought against him with contempt. With regard to General Ashburnham, he thought that the manner in, and the time at, which the attacks complained of were made, justified the observations which he had felt it his duty to make on Thursday night. At the same time, he did not at all deny the right of the press to review and criticise Government appointments.

After some further discussion, in which Lords Cardigan, Hardwicke, and Clanricarde took part, the matter dropped.

EXTENDING THE PRIVILEGE OF REPORTING.

Lord CAMPBELL renewed his motion brought forward in the late Parliament for a Select Committee to consider whether the privilege now enjoyed by reports of the proceedings of justice might be safely and properly extended to reports of the proceedings of the two Houses of Parliament, and of any and of what other assemblies or public meetings, under any and what conditions or restrictions; and also for a Select Committee to consider and report on the expediency of altering the present mode of administering oaths to witnesses to be examined by Committees of the house. Lord Campbell proposed to pass a standing order authorising Committees to swear witnesses.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, who concurred in the motion, and in the proposal to take evidence on oath before the Committees appointed in either house, doubted whether the Lords could effect the change simply by a standing order.

Motion agreed to.

THE GOVERNMENT TROOP SHIPS.

In the Commons of Friday, on the motion that the house at its rising do adjourn until Monday, Mr. LINDSAY made certain inquiries of the First Lord of the Admiralty with reference to the steam-ships *Transit*, *Perseverance*, and *Urgent*, which, it had been alleged, were built by Messrs. Mare and Co., and had been spoilt in the hands of the Admiralty.

Sir C. Wood gave long and detailed explanations with regard to the three vessels. The *Urgent* and *Transit* were fitted with engines made for the Russian Government by the Napiers of Glasgow, and were seized by the Crown. They had turned out ill, and new engines had been put in the *Transit*. Sir Charles gave a different version of the performances of the *Transit*. She is not top-heavy; but is,

on the contrary, exceedingly "stiff" or stable under a press of canvas. Although a ship of 2,580 tons, her masts and sails are those of a corvette of 1,460 tons. The accident that happened to her in the Bay of Biscay was such as might happen to any ship. The new rigging had stretched, and required to be set up; but that is not an unusual thing. Admiral Walcott said, he felt perfectly persuaded that the *Transit* is seaworthy, and that instead of foundering at the Cape of Good Hope, she would be found to make a prosperous voyage to China.

CHURCH-RATES.

In the Commons on Monday, Sir J. TRELAWNY asked whether the Government had any intention of bringing in a measure for the abolition of church-rates this session?

Lord PALMERSTON: I can only repeat now the statement which I made on this subject on a former occasion, and that is, that her Majesty's Government have this matter under their consideration, and that we are not without hope of being able in the present session to introduce a measure which may satisfy all the parties concerned. I cannot, however, at present give a definitive answer on the subject.

Sir J. TRELAWNY said that unless he could get a more satisfactory and definite answer from the noble lord it would be his duty to bring the subject before the house in the course of the next month.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The house went into committee on the Savings Banks Bill, when

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved the resolution of which he had given notice, preparatory to the introduction of a bill. He said the Government proposed, in making itself responsible for the money of the depositors, to provide safeguards for the public interest. He desired to leave the appointment of the local officers to the managers and trustees, and that the daily superintendence of those officers should remain as it was at present. All he asked on the part of the public—that there should be a power in the hands of the Savings Banks Commissioners of making general regulations with respect to the duties of the officers; that they should have the power of fixing the amount of securities to be taken from the officers, and that they should have the power of dismissing the officers when they were found incompetent. Beyond that he did not propose that their powers should extend.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY complained that the Government did not undertake to consolidate the law of savings banks, now so scattered as to be collated only with difficulty. He also asserted that through the use of savings bank stock for financial operations by the Chancellor of the Exchequer a deficiency of five millions and a quarter had been created.

There was a good deal of further criticism of the provisions of the measure, after which

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER promised that before the second reading of the bill he would frame the conditions under which the existing banks might come under the new law. The resolution was agreed to.

THE TRANSPORTATION QUESTION.

Sir G. GREY then moved the second reading of the Transportation and Penal Servitude Bill, and repeated most of the statements which, in performing the same duty, he made in February last. The Government desired by this bill to obtain facilities for transporting persons sentenced to penal servitude. Transportation, as a distinct sentence, would be abolished. The bill would also make the sentence of penal servitude of longer effect than at present, indeed co-extensive with transportation. He admitted that if the system of transportation was to be maintained it could only be by a system of selection, which must necessarily be determined by the physical condition of the convict, the facilities afforded by colonies for the purpose, and other circumstances, but that was inevitable. It was proposed to vest the discretionary power with the Home Secretary, who could exercise it better than the judge. Regulations would be drawn up, so that the judge would know, when he passed the sentence, what that sentence would render the prisoner liable to; but whether the punishment would be carried out at home or abroad must depend upon the circumstances he had mentioned.

Mr. BENTINCK opposed the bill, as calculated to establish an uncertain and costly mode of punishment ill adapted to reform the prisoner. He moved that the bill be read that day six months; but the amendment, finding no seconder, fell to the ground.

Mr. ROEBUCK contended that the bill did not touch the difficulty. The great cause of crime here was the difficulty of finding employment. He would make all transportation definitive. The man transported should never come back to this country.

Sir J. PAKINGTON gave a qualified approval of the bill, objecting, however, to its tendency to make the measure of punishment uncertain.

After some further discussion, Lord STANLEY said the real question was, "Is transportation possible?" He believed that any attempt to form a new penal settlement anywhere would lead to disappointment. Only Western Australia was therefore left to the Government, and the house must be quite prepared to find at any moment the Western Australians change their mind; the Government must take care that they did not send out at any one time any excessive number of convicts. They must send out none but such as there was a reasonable probability of reclaiming; and the inhabitants of the colony should be given clearly to understand that no attempt would be made at compulsion, or anything at all resembling it.

The bill was read a second time and ordered to be committed on Friday.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On Friday Sir G. Grey moved for and obtained

leave to bring in a bill to amend the Acts of the 16th and 17th years of Her Majesty, to substitute in certain cases other punishment in lieu of transportation.

Mr. LABOUCHERE moved for the re-appointment of the select committee to consider the state of those British possessions in North America which are under the administration of the Hudson's Bay Company, or over which they possess a license to trade. He said that the colony of Canada had sent over to this country the Chief Justice of Upper Canada, who would be ready to give the Committee that assistance which the testimony of such a man could not fail to afford. He hoped the committee would be enabled to bring their labours to a conclusion before the end of the session, and that the Government would be in a position to deal very shortly with the important and complicated subject of their deliberations.

On Thursday (to-morrow) the First Minister will move for leave to introduce a bill to amend the oaths taken by members of the two Houses of Parliament, and the Secretary for the Treasury a bill for the incorporation of insurance companies and mutual societies. On Friday the Attorney-General will move for leave to bring in a bill to make fraudulent breaches of trust criminal.

Leave has been given to Mr. Adderley to bring in a bill for establishing industrial schools in England and Wales. The bill was read a second time on Monday, though not without opposition; but there was a majority of 150 in its favour.

Petitions were presented on Friday against the returns for the boroughs of Athlone, Cambridge, and Huntingdon, and on Monday against the returns for Rochdale, Pontefract, and Sligo.

Mr. SPOONER gave notice, on Friday, that on Thursday, the 21st inst., he should move that the house do resolve itself into a committee to consider the act relating to the endowment of Maynooth College—(great laughter)—with a view to the withdrawal of the grant from the consolidated fund, having due regard to vested rights. ("Hear," and laughter.) Mr. SCHOLEFIELD, on Monday, gave notice that when this motion was brought forward, he would move as an amendment the addition of the following words: "and to consider the expediency of withholding all further grants of public money for religious purposes in Ireland." (Hear, hear.)

Mr. KERSEY inquired of the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government intended to propose any alteration in the present mode of licensing publichouses and beershops. Sir G. GREY replied that it was not the intention of the Government during the present session to propose any bill upon the subject, but he thought it right to say that the law relating to the licensing of publichouses and beershops was in a very unsatisfactory state; but in consequence of the great amount of capital invested in those trades and the great interests involved, very great caution was required in dealing with the subject.

On Monday the LORD CHANCELLOR brought in the bills for amending the law relating to probate administration, and to marriage and divorce. The bills, he said, were substantially the same as the bills of last session, but several amendments had been made, and, amongst others, in the Testamentary Bill. He had separated the Court of Probate in every way, not only from the Court of Chancery, but from every judge in the Court of Chancery. The bills were read a first time.

Earl GRANVILLE said that the report of the Civil Service Superannuation Committee would be presented within a week, when the Government would consider the question.

Lord CAMPBELL called attention to the necessity of further regulations for the sale of poisons. He also wished to mention the diffusion of another poison, he meant those cheap licentious publications with which the town was flooded. He thought it was the duty of Government to take immediate steps to suppress this growing evil. The LORD CHANCELLOR said, that the legislative enactments already existing were quite sufficient to put these nuisances down. With regard to the sale of poisons, the subject was receiving the attention of the Government.

Foreign and Colonial.

THE PERSIAN WAR.

The following telegraphic despatch has been received from Sir James Outram, dated Camp before Mohammorah, March 28:—"Mohammorah was captured by the British on the 26th inst. The enemy lost 200 killed and wounded, among whom was Aherluf Brigadier, besides 17 guns, and a vast amount of ammunition and military stores. The Persian army, under the Shah Zedah, retreated towards Ahwaz and Shuster in great disorder. The British forces are encamped near Mohammorah. Our loss in killed and wounded is about 10. The Arab tribes are friendly, and are sending in their submission." The following further telegraphic message has been received from Sir James Outram through Constantinople:—"The flying expedition to Ahwaz returned to Mohammorah on the 4th inst. (April) completely successful. The large Persian army retired from their position, and retreated rapidly towards Dizful before a British force not 400 strong. One gun was captured, and extensive military stores were seized and destroyed."

The following confirmatory information has been received by the overland mail:—The capture of Mohammorah on the 26th March by General Outram with a force of 4,500 men, which left Bushire on the 19th, is confirmed. The entrance of the Karoon had been skilfully fortified by the enemy, but the forts were silenced by the steamers in two hours.

Prince Khanlas Mirza, at the head of 13,000 men, fled, with a loss of 200, leaving ammunition, stores, camp equipages, and 17 guns. General Stalker and Commodore Etheridge have both committed suicide in a moment of temporary insanity. The verdict on General Stalker's body was, that he came by his death from a pistol shot inflicted by his own hand in a fit of temporary insanity. There was no paper left to indicate this, and he was merely heard to complain that the 3rd Cavalry was not given him, and was also uneasy about the responsibility of sheltering the European troops during the approaching hot weather. The verdict on Commodore Etheridge was that he destroyed himself with his own hand while suffering under mental aberration, brought about by long-continued anxiety connected with the duties of his command.

FRANCE.

The Grand Duke Constantine seems to have received a very warm reception in Paris, and he has shown himself as fond of sight-seeing there as he did at Toulon. Every day he has paid a visit to one or other of the "lions,"—to Notre Dame, to the minor theatres, to the cell of Marie Antoinette at the Conciergerie, to the Bois de Boulogne, to the exhibition of the paintings of Paul Delaroche, to the Cité. On Wednesday there was a review of 70,000 men, which he attended. Prince Napoleon was also present.

The Grand Duke Constantine, at the dinner given by the Count de Kisseloff, the Russian ambassador, in proposing the toast to the French army, used the following language:—

To the French army, which, far from having degenerated, has risen in the esteem and admiration of all nations! To those brave soldiers whom any nation may be proud to have for adversaries on the field of battle, and still more to have for friends in the midst of the prophecies of a fruitful peace! I return thanks to Providence for having given me an opportunity of loudly proclaiming this my opinion before the chiefs who represent the *élite* of that valiant army.

A telegraphic despatch says—"It is decided that the Grand Duke Constantine will have an interview, at Osborne, with the Queen of England. It will take place after the visit of his Imperial Highness to the Western ports of France." The visit will have "nothing of an official character, but will be merely an affectionate compliment to the Queen and the woman." According to a programme in *Le Nord*, the visit will not take place until about the 1st of June.

Baron Gros has been appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to China. He will proceed thither in the *Audacieuse* frigate. The *Moniteur* states that he has full powers to act with Lord Elgin, both in negotiation and military operations. The *Constitutionnel* says that Baron Gros' instructions are to demand from the Chinese Government reparation for certain grievances affecting France especially, and among them the murder of M. Chappelaine. He is, moreover, to ask for new commercial treaties. A telegraphic despatch has been addressed to the authorities at Toulon, Brest, and Rochefort, to suspend the embarkation of troops for China. This measure is explained, it is said, by the nature of the despatches recently received from the French Minister at Macao, and which give hopes of a speedy and pacific conclusion of the existing differences with the Chinese Government.

The Emperor has, it is said, again written to the King of Prussia on the subject of Neufchâtel, pressing him, in as urgent a manner as he can, to accept the solution proposed by the representatives of the four Powers, and already accepted by the Swiss Government.

The French Government intend to purchase the habitation and tomb of the First Napoleon at St. Helena. A bill is now before the Legislative Body to authorise the expenditure of 180,000 francs for this purpose. The British Government has aided France in arranging the purchase. At present Longwood is used as a farm-house; and it would seem that an American has got possession of Napoleon's empty grave to make a show of it—"American speculation," says the *exposé des motifs* of the bill, "disputes the possession of it with the patriotism of France."

ITALY.

The Turin Chamber of Deputies has adopted by 94 votes to 52 the bill for making La Spezia the chief seat of the Piedmontese navy and stores.

The Pope started on the 4th on his long-intended journey for Loretto, which he is represented to undertake in consequence of a vow made at a moment of personal danger. His Holiness will then proceed to Ancona, traverse the Romagna, and visit Bologna. It is generally believed, says one letter, that the Pope really intends to commence a system of improvement, and thinks he can best do so by quitting Rome, where, whenever a question of adopting reforms arises, Cardinal Antonelli, Secretary of State, and the majority of the Sacred College, are sure to set themselves in opposition to his wishes. There are some who think that the object of the Pope's journey is to attach as much as possible to the capital the Legations, whose tendency to a total separation from Rome is every day becoming stronger.

It is reported in Turin that the long-talked of Concordat between Naples and the Holy See is on the point of being concluded. It will exempt the property of the clergy and of charitable institutions from taxation, suppress the intervention of lay authorities in marriages, and place the civil registration exclusively in the hands of the clergy. The royal acts in the nomination of bishops are also to be suppressed; the clergy are to have the surveillance of families,

and when they think proper, can claim the aid of an armed force.

We have had Mr. Bright here for the last few days, and have not failed to render him due honour as a renowned orator and a philanthropist of high conscientiousness and the purest zeal. It is said that he did not much care to make the acquaintance of Count Cavour personally, regarding Count Cavour rather as a man of extreme ideas, and as one who had small faith in universal and perpetual peace. But after an interview with that distinguished person, Mr. Bright admired him, finding in him a more gentle and pacific disposition than he had presumed or hoped for.—*Turin Correspondent of the Daily News.*

PRUSSIA.

Prince Napoleon arrived at Berlin on Friday evening. He was received at the railway-station and conducted to the Palace by Prince George of Prussia. A despatch from Berlin, dated Saturday, states that Prince Napoleon has delivered to the King of Prussia an autograph letter from the Emperor Napoleon upon the subject of the Neufchâtel dispute.

The *Indépendance* and *Le Nord* both assert that the visit of Prince Napoleon to Berlin is connected with a matrimonial contract, and *Le Nord* adds that an alliance with a German Princess has been concerted through the intervention of the King of Wurtemburg.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor and Empress left Vienna on the morning of the 4th by the steam yacht *Eagle* for Pesth. They arrived at Pesth in the afternoon, and made their solemn entry into that capital surrounded by a magnificent cortege. Immediately after his arrival at the Castle of Ofen, the Emperor received the homage of the high dignitaries of the nobility and the clergy, and was present at a Te Deum celebrated by the Cardinal Archbishop Primate of Hungary. It is calculated that not less than 60,000 persons, strangers to the place, had assembled at the spectacle. It is said that the reception given to their Majesties by the non-official part of the population was "kind (*wohlwollend*), but not enthusiastic." The reply of the Emperor to the congratulatory speech of the Burgomaster of Pesth, was:—"I am perfectly convinced of your loyalty, and am pleased to hear the expression of it from your lips." After a short pause his Majesty continued:—"The Empress, who has long wished to see this beautiful city, is certainly as pleased with it as I am." His Majesty told the nobles who waited on him in the Palace at Buda that he had come "to examine into the wishes and necessities of the Hungarian nation."

An amnesty has been granted to all those persons who, having been condemned to imprisonment for political offences, are now in Austrian prisons. All trials for political offences are quashed, excepting those which are pending against the refugees.

TURKEY.

From Constantinople, news to the 30th of April has arrived at Paris. The banking project of Mr. Wilkin is said to have been definitely set aside; and some other projects of English capitalists are said to have been either rejected or much restricted in their scope. The native bankers have made some proposals to the Government, which, however, were not acceptable.

There is a council at the Porte (says a letter from Constantinople) called the Tanzimat, and at its head sits a certain Mehemet Kibrishi Pasha, once Ambassador in London and elsewhere, and who in his peregrinations through the world has learnt to talk largely of civilisation and progress. Before this council scheme after scheme has been developed, and concession after concession granted; but, alas! more than a year has elapsed, and no millions have yet appeared, and all these promising plans appear as distant from their realization as ever.

AMERICA.

Lord Napier was present at the annual dinner of the St. George's Society, New York. To the toast of "Her Majesty's Ministers" he answered, in a speech dashing in manner, pleasantly piquant in bantering allusions, frank and cordial beyond all diplomatic restraint, but grave and vigorous in matter. He avowed himself to share a useful employment with his venerable friend the United States Minister in London—"the employment of holding aloft the ensigns of friendship between the two great branches of the English race." The House of Assembly in Nova Scotia has passed the Submarine Telegraph Bill. The governorship of Utah has been tendered to Major B. McCulloch. The Administration intend a peaceful policy, but will have the law executed and property protected. President Buchanan was indisposed. The steam-frigate *Niagara*, which sailed for England on the 25th, made a trial trip previously.

The Indian troubles in Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska, are serious, and a general border warfare with the Sioux and Pawnees seems imminent. In the Blue Earth country and around Spirit Lake at the head of Des Moines River, several families have been murdered, others wounded, and a number of women taken captive by the Sioux. Troops are in pursuit, and the frontier inhabitants are collected in temporary forts, and in a state of starvation.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Lord Elgin passed Malta on the 2nd of May.

A grant of 20,000/- having been voted by the legislature of Otago, a province of New Zealand, for promoting emigration from Great Britain, the pro-

vincial executive are taking steps to enable persons resident in the province to bring out their relatives and friends.

The Abbé Canino Bonaparte is to be appointed Grand Almoner to the Emperor of the French.

The 500/- yearly expended by the Czar on the "Emperor's cup" for Ascot races, a gift stopped by the war, will in future form a prize for the Moscow races.

The prohibition of any serf quitting the Russian soil has been removed: passports will be granted to serfs in all cases where they produce a written permission to travel from their owners.

The King of Siam has just sent to Paris to the Emperor Napoleon some valuable presents, consisting of superb arms, magnificent tissues, curious instruments of music, objects in ivory, and elephants' teeth. The presents are accompanied by a letter written in the most friendly terms.

A letter from Munich, in the *Augsburg Gazette*, says: "Professor Liebig has analysed the bread sent to him from Hong Kong, and has found it to contain a quarter gramme of arsenic for every fifty grammes of bread, or more than sufficient to cause death. The arsenic was spread over the whole surface of the bread, which proved that the poison had been mixed up with dough."

The Belgian journals publish the account of a treaty between Russia and Japan. The Russians are to be allowed freedom to come and go in the towns of Simoda and Hakodaki, which will enable them to carry on trade under greater advantages than the treaties with other Powers have yet accorded.

Senator Sumner, who is now in Paris, has been tendered a public dinner by the American merchants residing in Paris. To this invitation Mr. Sumner returned a reply, in which he said:—

The invitation you send me, coming from such a source, couched in terms so flattering, and possessing such an import, presents a temptation difficult to resist. But I am admonished by the state of my health, which is yet far from its natural vigour, that I must not listen to it except to express my gratitude. In making this excuse, let me fortify myself by the confession that I left home mainly to withdraw from the excitements of public life, and particularly from all public speaking, in the assurance that by such withdrawal, accompanied by such relaxation which is found in a change of pursuit, my convalescence would be completed.

An arrival from the Cape of Good Hope gives a rather gloomy account of the state of things on the Caffre frontier. Isolated outrages had taken place, and apprehensions of another Caffre outbreak were deepening. These accounts, however, must be received with caution.

By the Indian mail we learn that a mutiny of the Sepoys of the 19th Bengal Native Infantry has ended in the disbanding of the corps.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES RELATIVE TO THE PROCEEDINGS AT CANTON.

On Saturday further papers were issued, in the form of a return to Parliament, relating to the proceedings of her Majesty's naval forces at Canton. As many as twenty despatches (exclusive of enclosures) from Sir John Bowring to the Earl of Clarendon are given. Particulars are sent to the home Government of the kidnapping Mr. Cowper; and also copies of correspondence with the Spanish Consul-General, on the subject of the supposed murder of the Spanish Vice-Consul of Macao, in the attack upon the *Thidie*. On the 9th of December Sir John Bowring sends to the Viceroy of Fuh-keen, &c., a statement of his complaints against Commissioner Yeh, and requesting that the Court of Pekin be advised of the same. In the course of reply the Viceroy says:—

The document forwarded to me being in English, its contents are unknown to me, and I have no means of deciphering them.

In conclusion, it is my duty to add that our two nations having been on friendly terms for many years, I am still in hopes, that by due observance on either side of the Treaty of Peace that was to last for ever, it will be their good fortune to strengthen the amicable relations heretofore existing between them.

The replies of the Viceroy of the Two Keang and the Governor of Keang-foo, to whom a similar letter from Sir John Bowring was sent, are furnished. The meaning of the letter from the first, is said by Mr. Wade, the Chinese Secretary, to be as follows:—

I rejoice in your Excellency's professions of peace; but it would only do harm to the interests of peace, to which you profess yourself so friendly, were I to tell the Emperor that, because of Yeh's act, you have precipitately broken the peace that the treaty said was to last for ever. Another reason against my addressing the throne is, that Yeh, and he alone, is competent to deal with commercial questions; and this can be nothing else, being a question with foreigners.

A variety of documents relative to the poisoning at Hong Kong, including protests thereon from the representatives of France and America to Commissioner Yeh, then follow. Yeh, in his reply to Dr. Parker, says:—

I received your Excellency's communication of the 16th ult. on the 2nd inst., and observe what it contains: That the American consul, who had arrived at Macao from Hong Kong, informed you personally that two or three days before certain Chinese people in Hong Kong had mixed poison in the bread which they furnished the public, without distinction of country, of which all had eaten, and had been made seriously ill; and that it was not yet known whether they would survive. On reading this I was very greatly surprised. The Chinese and Americans have usually been on good terms, and the trade between China and other countries has heretofore been conducted amicably; but the English have now, for several months, in a most unprovoked manner, brought

their troops and engaged in hostilities, repeatedly setting fire to the shops and dwellings of people, and destroying a very great number of buildings, and have ruined some entire families. Doubtless there are many Chinese whose hatred against the English has been much increased by this; but to poison people in this underhand manner is an act worthy of detestation; still, as it all occurred in Hong Kong, it is impossible for me to examine into all the facts. The act is owing to the unnumbered evils which have been inflicted upon the Chinese by the English; and the natives of the surrounding districts have taken this way of revenging their private wrongs. The Americans having never injured the Chinese, there is, of course, nothing to mar the good feeling existing between them. Your Excellency might, with propriety, issue admonitory exhortations for the Americans quietly to attend to their own business, and there can be no question but the Chinese will always treat them in a proper manner. What could induce them to think of secretly poisoning them?—a point worthy of your consideration. For this I reply; at the same time wishing you stable peace.

To the Count de Courcy he writes:—

Canton, Feb. 3, 1857.

The news of the poisoning of the bread at Hong Kong has shocked and saddened me the more profoundly because friendship and harmony exist as a matter of custom between China and your noble empire. But since, without reason or cause, the English continue their hostilities during whole months, setting on fire and burning an infinite number of the people's dwellings and of establishments of all kinds, entire families without number are necessarily reduced to misery, and the populations of all the districts breathe only hatred and vengeance against them. The proofs of this are to be seen everywhere, and your despatch says, truly, that "when hatred seizes upon a people, it thinks only of avenging itself, and, discarding the rights of reason, it has only one desire, that of injuring its enemy." Whoever he may be, the author of the poisoning is an abominable being, but he is at present at Hong Kong, and it would be difficult for me to take proceedings against him.

We then find in the papers a copy of an imperial edict, issued on the 27th December last, forming the latest instructions for certain provincial authorities relative to the hostilities with England. In this document the Emperor says:—

We have this day instructed Yeh, that if the English barbarians turn from their present course of their own motion, anger (or hate) need not be carried to extremity, but if they dare to persist in their extravagance and obstinacy, peace is not to be negotiated by a conciliatory movement on our part, as this would open the way to demands for other concessions of importance. Yeh-ming-chin has been very long in charge of the Kwang Provinces, and is so thoroughly cognisant with barbarian affairs, that he will be able in all possibility to devise a proper course of proceeding.

It occurs to us that the seaboard of Keang-soo, Che-keang, and Fuh-keen, is ground with which the steamers of these barbarians are, by long experience, well acquainted; and as precaution should be taken to defend (that coast) also against the barbarians, who, when they find themselves unable to work their will in the Canton province, may attempt to disturb other ports along it, we command Eleang, Chaou, and Ho, to give instruction privily to the local authorities, in the event of barbarian ships approaching (their jurisdiction), to take such steps as will render them secure, without sound or sign (that may attract attention). If they come to explain the circumstances of the rupture at Canton, they must be so silenced by reasonable arguments that no loop-hole be left them; and seeing this, they may be minded to fall back from their undertaking as hopeless. But (the authorities referred to) are not in any way to take the alarm, as this would disturb and perplex the public mind.

Despatches from Admiral Seymour to the Admiralty contain an account of proceedings in the Canton River, already known to our readers. On the 28th of February, Sir John Bowring writes to the Earl of Clarendon:—

My Lord,—I have received with peculiar satisfaction, your lordship's despatch dated the 10th January, advising me that her Majesty's Government entirely approve of the course adopted by Sir Michael Seymour, Mr. Parkes, and myself, in reference to the late operations in the Canton River.

On the 26th February Vice-Consul Meadows forwards to Sir John Bowring a memorial from a Chinese governor, which has come into his hands, embodying another imperial decree. Dr. Parker, the American commissioner, forwards to Sir John Bowring a copy of a despatch which he has sent to Commissioner Yeh, disclaiming the interpretation put by the latter upon the course taken by the Americans. Dr. Parker writes:—

Were the undersigned called upon to pass judgment upon the question who is right and who is wrong in the present controversy, he might wish to inquire if it had not been right, when the occasion for serious complaint arose, for the high officers of the two Governments to have met face to face, and according to reason and justice have settled the matter, and thus have prevented the vast destruction of property and effusion of blood which has been in consequence of your Excellency's failing to do so. He might also, perchance, inquire into the truth of the statements regarding what had transpired in former years in relation to the subject of the entrée of the city of Canton, which differs widely from what the undersigned, who has long resided in China, apprehends to be the facts of the case.

The undersigned may be allowed, in the spirit of true friendship, to express to your Excellency his belief that the fountain of all difficulties between China and foreign nations is the unwillingness of China to acknowledge England, France, America, and other great nations of the west as her equals and true friends, and to treat them accordingly. So far as respects this grave matter, the American Government is sensible that the English are in the right, and does choose to co-operate with them.

The remaining papers include communications relative to the capture of the steamer Queen, and further despatches from Admiral Seymour, the latter observing on the 15th of March:—

As regards the Imperial High Commissioner, from all that I can learn, his Excellency is still animated by feel-

ings of the deepest hostility, and has increased his garrison at Canton; nothing but an adequate military tone can, in my opinion, replace our relations on proper footing, and ultimately secure the due fulfilment of treaty stipulations. I am in daily expectation of the arrival of the steam-sloops and gun-boats.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

A public meeting of the graduates of the University of London was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, yesterday evening week, for the purpose of taking into consideration the terms of the proposed new charter of incorporation recommended by the senate of that institution, and how it interfered with the present status. The chair was occupied by Dr. Russell, of Birmingham. It appeared from the report of the committee of the association of graduates that they had been for ten years striving to obtain a share in the governing body of the institution, and had so far succeeded as to obtain a recognition of the justice of their claim from the Home Secretary, who had been pleased to appoint two of their number, Drs. Wood and Gull, to seats in the senate. Thus encouraged, they prepared a draft charter, which they submitted to the same minister for his approval. This report having been adopted, Dr. Foster moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting, while regretting the introduction into the new charter of important powers, which have not been the subject of discussion as between the senate and the graduates, yet, understanding that the colleges are actually to remain in the new charter, and that the opinion of convocation is intended to be a practical element in the action of the university, and must, in ordinary course, be declared in respect to any regulations made in pursuance of these powers, authorises the committee to accept the charter as proposed by the senate.

He argued for this course on the ground that the charter really contained all the concessions for which they had been contending; and, although he disapproved of students not educated at one or other of the affiliated colleges being admitted to the degrees of the university, he thought that the voice of the existing graduates, as an element of public opinion, would be potent in preventing the senate from exercising the power which the additional clause contemplated. Dr. Stark seconded the resolution. Mr. Jos. Waley moved, as an amendment,

That this meeting, viewing with disapproval and alarm the contemplated renunciation by the senate of the principle of collegiate education in arts and law, and considering such a measure to be a serious blow to regular and systematic education, and calculated to lower the value of London degrees, declines to authorise the committee to accept the charter as proposed by the senate.

Dr. Quain seconded the amendment. He protested against the university being, in this age of examination, degraded into a board of examiners, just as if education and examination meant one and the same thing. An animated debate followed; and, Dr. Foster having replied, the amendment was put to the meeting and approved of by a large majority. A vote of thanks was then passed to Dr. Foster for his exertions in getting two of the graduates nominated on the senate, and to those gentlemen who showed a willingness to act upon it.

On Wednesday the *Senatus* met at Burlington-house for the purpose of conferring degrees and scholarships, and awarding prizes. At two o'clock Earl Granville, chancellor; and Sir John C. Lefevre, vice-chancellor, accompanied by the *Senatus*, entered the hall, and were very warmly received by a numerous assembly, comprising many ladies. Dr. Carpenter, the registrar, read a lengthened report. It appeared that 209 candidates were admitted at the matriculation examination; twenty-six passed their first examination as M.B.; fifty-eight as B.A.; six passed the voluntary examination in Scripture; nine the final examination as M.B.; eleven as LL.B.; ten as M.A.; five as M.D.; and one as LL.D. The order for presentation was as follows:—

LL.D.—James Walter Smith, of St. Mary Hall, Oxford, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside.

M.D.—John Hillier Blount, King's College, by the Rev. Professor Browne; Frederick Robert Spackman, Middlesex Hospital, by Dr. Frere; John White Keyworth, St. Thomas's Hospital, by Professor Sharpey; William Tiffin Iliff, Guy's Hospital, by Dr. Addison; Henry Vandyke Carter, St. George's Hospital, by Professor Sharpey.

M.A.—William Roby Fletcher, Lancashire, Independent College, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside; William Fiddean Moulton, Wesley College, Sheffield, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside; William Harnett, Henry Charles Leonard, and Robert Griffith Williams, University College, by Professor Masson; Humphrey Fitzroy Woolrich, King's College, by the Rev. Professor Browne; Swinton Henry Boult, Manchester New and University College, by the Rev. J. J. Taylor; James Allanson Picton, Lancashire Independent College, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside; Frederic Evans Anthony and Charles Chapman, Western College, Plymouth, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside.

LL.B.—Frederick Charles James Millar and William Frederick Satchell, University College, by Professor Masson; Arundell Blount Whatton, King's College, by the Rev. Professor Browne; Hopson Pinckney Walker, Jesus College, Cambridge, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside; John Johnston Rogerson, University of Edinburgh, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside; Andrew Cummins, Queen's College, Cork, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside; Christopher Newman Hall, Highbury College, by the Rev. Professor Newth; Henry Pace, Stonyhurst College, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside; Rev. James Jefferes, New College, by the Rev. Professor Newth; Henry Goward, Spring Hill College, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside; William Crosbie, Rotherham College, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside.

M.B.—Edwin Andrew James Gibb Blake, Henry Maudsley, and John Charles Thorowgood, University College, by Professor Jenner; Francis Joseph Dowling and James Rice, of King's College, by the Rev. Professor Browne; Edward Clapton and Sydney Jones, St. Thomas's Hospital, by Professor Sharpey; Thomas Edward Burton Browne, Guy's Hospital, by Dr. Addison.

B.A.—Barnett Abrahams, William Nutter Barker, Alfred Bingham, William Stacey Chapman, Ebenezer Charles, Henry Peyton Cobb, Robert Dawson, James Eccles, Leonard Emanuel, Allan Field, Basil Field, Percy Greg, John Hennell, Frederick Foster Jones, George Knott, John Langton, Samuel Wardlaw M'All, Henry John Manning, William Paice, Thomas Lloyd Phillips, Augustus Provost, John Shoe, John Bird Taunton, James Rodway Thomson, John Wingfield, Henry Selfe Page Winterbotham, University College, by Professor Masson; James Anstie, Henry Cecil Darlington, Frederick Garrard, Henry Godrich, Alpheus Herriman Moore, William Steer Riding, Decimus Sturges, Walter West, King's College, by the Rev. Professor Browne; Thomas Watson, University of Glasgow, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside; George Sidgreaves, Stonyhurst College, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside; Edward Gilbert Herbert and William Gavin Stronach, Spring Hill College, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside; William Best, Stepney College, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside. John Richards, St. Gregory's, Downside, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside. Archibald Hastic Dick and James Schofield, Huddersfield College, by the Rev. N. White. Richard Griffiths Hartley, Lancashire Independent and Owens, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside. Charles Lawrence Ford and Thomas Hodson, Wesley College, Sheffield, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside. John Gibbons Scott, Queen's College, Birmingham, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside. John Bradford, Wesleyan College Institution, Taunton, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside. Clement Cleman and John Petherick Allen, Western College, Plymouth, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside. Maurice John Evans and John Gibbons Reed, New College, by the Rev. Professor Newth. David Edwards, Robert Harrop, William Dinwiddie, Richard Marden Pankhurst, Owens College, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside. John Evans and Henry Wall, Brecon College, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside. Thomas William May, Hackney Theological Seminary, by the Rev. Professor Heaviside.

Court, Personal, and Official News.

Prince Albert, from his visit to Manchester, returned to Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, in time to attend the meeting of the Privy Council. The Queen was so far recovered on Thursday as to be able to encounter the fatigue of a journey to Osborne, whither Prince Albert and the children accompanied her. They left Buckingham Palace at half-past ten and reached Osborne a little after two o'clock. In the course of the afternoon, her Majesty walked and drove out in the grounds, accompanied by the Prince Consort.

The stay of the Queen at Osborne will be for a longer period than was at first intended, most probably for about three weeks.—*Court Journal*.

The remains of the Duchess of Gloucester were on Friday deposited in the royal vault at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. The funeral was conducted, according to the desire of the late Duchess, in the "most private manner possible." The hearse, preceded by six mourning-carriages, and escorted by a troop of Life Guards, was conveyed to the Paddington terminus, and thence by railway to Slough. At the station there, the procession was augmented by the arrival of a number of officers of her Majesty's Court, and the carriages of the Queen, the Duchess of Kent, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. At a slow pace the procession moved to St. George's Chapel. The Duchess of Atholl was the chief mourner, and when the coffin was placed near the altar she sat at its head during the performance of the burial service. Prince Albert and the Duke of Cambridge sat in their stalls, each wearing the order of the Garter. The Prince of Wales, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, and a number of friends of the late Duchess, were present. In the royal closet were the Duchess and Princess Mary of Cambridge, and the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. The Garter King stood near the coffin. The service was performed by the Dean of Windsor.

The Earl of Derby's absence from Parliament is caused by a fit of the gout, which detains him at Knowsley.

Lord Brougham is expected from his chateau in the south of France about the 20th inst. His lordship has been suffering from a severe attack of influenza; but his usual good health is now completely restored.

Viscount Palmerston gives a full dress dinner party on Wednesday, at Cambridge House, in honour of the opening of the new Parliament. The invitations extend to about forty.

We deeply regret (says the *Union*) to learn that Dr. Pusey is in a very weak state of health.

The *Gazette* contains a copy of a commission to inquire into the organisation, government, and direction of the Medical Department of the Army. The Commissioners are Mr. Sidney Herbert, Mr. Augustus Stafford, Colonel Sir Henry Storks, Dr. Andrew Smith, Mr. Thomas Alexander, Sir Thomas Phillips, Mr. James Ranald Martin, Sir James Clark, and Dr. Sutherland.

The appointed judges of the plans now exhibited at Westminster Hall for the new Government offices are—the Duke of Buccleuch; Mr. Stirling, M.P. for Perthshire; Lord Eversley, the late Speaker of the House of Commons; Earl Stanhope, President of the Royal Society of Architects; Mr. David Roberts, R.A.; Mr. Burn, R.A.; and Mr. Brunel, the eminent engineer. The judges will commence their arduous duties at once. The exhibition of designs is open to the public every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, from ten to six o'clock, and on Saturdays from twelve to six o'clock.

We understand that Dr. Medhurst has left a widow and unmarried daughter without any provision for their future support. The Bishop of Victoria (Hong Kong) says, in a letter to the Secretary of the London Missionary Society:—"It is scarcely

necessary that I should remind you that our lamented friend might, if he had chosen, have left his widow in circumstances of affluence. He declined the offer of the British Government to fill a situation, with nearly 1,000. a year, as interpreter, and preferred labouring as a missionary on the limited stipend furnished by your society." A few friends, who hold in the highest honour and esteem his character and labours, and who feel the forcible claims of his widow and bereaved daughter, have determined to use their influence in raising a sufficient amount to insure an annuity adequate for the comfortable support of Mrs. Medhurst. Towards the accomplishment of this object the directors of the London Missionary Society have contributed the sum of 200 guineas, the committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society have generously made a grant of 200., and the committee of the Religious Tract Society have kindly co-operated by a donation of 100. Several gentlemen, engaged in mercantile pursuits in China, who knew Dr. Medhurst, and highly valued his important and disinterested labours, have likewise made liberal contributions.—*Record.*

We believe there is no longer any doubt that Mr. Chichester Fortescue has been named as Mr. Ball's successor in the Colonial Office. The hon. member for Louth bears the character of being a young man of amiable disposition and some accomplishments; what *specialitatem* he possesses for the administration of distant dependencies we own we have yet to learn.—*Daily News.*

Though the Duchess of Kent has been unwell, her health is nearly perfectly re-established.

The *Times* denies the statement that the Rev. F. D. Maurice is to be re-instated in his professorship at King's College.

Sir John M'Neill and Mr. F. Peel have both been sworn as privy councillors.

Miscellaneous News.

HENRY VINCENT'S LECTURES.—Mr. Vincent is labouring as usual in all parts of the country. He has just delivered three lectures at Bolton to large audiences, presided over by Mr. Barnes, Mr. Crook, M. P., and by Robert Heywood, Esq. At Hyde he has lectured twice—and has also addressed three enthusiastic meetings at Preston, the first presided over by the mayor. He has just concluded his Commonwealth course to large assemblies at Stony Stratford.

LONGEVITY.—Within a short distance of the Cardigan and Aberystwyth road in the populous vicinity of Blarnanerch there is a singular concurrence of old people. There are five women, full 80; one man, 80; a husband and wife, 80; two men, 85; one woman, 87; one woman, 89; and several others only some three or four years short of 80. This must testify to the salubrity of the spot.

The *Times* of Saturday announces that the case of the Royal British Bank directors is under the consideration of the law officers of the Crown.

MR. COBDEN AND THE BALLOT SOCIETY.—At the last meeting of the executive committee, a letter was read from Mr. Cobden to Mr. Thomas Prout, the treasurer, enclosing his annual subscription of 10., in which Mr. Cobden said:—"Now is the time for agitating your question. Mr. Grote was accustomed to say he was always well supported in the first session of a new Parliament, for that then the wounds of the electors were fresh and green from the electoral battle-field. I hope you will be able to set up branch societies, and to gather in subscriptions all over the country. I am sure you, Mr. Whitehurst, and Mr. Wickham, and the rest of the workers, have done your duty, and are entitled to the gratitude of the country."

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE.—Mr. James Gudge, who for forty-two years has filled offices in the House of Commons, and was for the greater part of that long period Chief Clerk of the Journals, has committed suicide. Of late he had often suffered from depression of spirits. On Wednesday at mid-day, he went on to the terrace of the Parliament Palace, mounted the dwarf wall, and gradually slid down into the Thames. The act had been seen by several persons, and Mr. Gudge was soon got into a boat and taken to the hospital, alive, but unconscious. He subsequently revived, and spoke a little; but died early on Thursday morning, from congestion of the brain and lungs, the consequence of the immersion. Dr. McCann, who had long known the deceased, expressed his belief to the coroner's jury that he was unconscious of his act when he got into the water. The verdict was "Temporary insanity."

REVERSE OF FORTUNE.—One of the Irish papers states that among the competitors for the clerkship of the Abbey Poor-law Union was a gentleman who had spent 5,000. in contesting the representation of the Queen's County with Sir Charles Coote, one of the present members, and was only defeated by a majority of eleven votes; he was, moreover, a magistrate of the county and a Master of Arts in Trinity College, Dublin. None of those circumstances, however, were of any avail, and the appointment thus coveted was won by a person in comparatively humble life.

A CONSERVATIVE REFORM BILL PROMISED.—The friends of Sir Bowyer Smijth, the defeated of South Essex, determined to show that they are not cast down, gave their hero a dinner on Friday at Chelmsford. The "defeat, disgrace, and dishonour," is attributed to "apathetic friends and energetic opponents." Sir Bowyer Smijth in the course of his speech revealed the intentions of his party:—He believed this session nothing would be done; but he had every reason to believe that next session three Reform Bills would

be brought before the House of Commons—Mr. Disraeli's, Lord John Russell's, and Lord Palmerston's. The House of Commons would probably accept the latter, and send it up to the House of Lords: but if that house did its duty, it would make it as near like Mr. Disraeli's as possible.

THE ACCIDENT TO THE CRYSTAL PALACE TRAIN.—Among the passengers who sustained injury by the accident which occurred to the Crystal Palace train on Friday morning last, we regret to have to mention the name of Mr. Edmund Fry, secretary to the League of Brotherhood, who is confined to his room from inflammatory action in the spine, resulting from the shock of the sudden collision of carriages.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM READING-ROOM.—On Saturday the new reading-room and some of the libraries of this institution were thrown open to the public at large, and a great number of persons were ready to avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded to them of viewing this interesting portion of one of our public institutions. The public will be admitted to view this portion of the institution daily till Saturday, the 16th instant, after which period it will be open only to those persons duly admitted for the purposes of study.

EQUALISATION OF THE POOR-RATES.—A deputation from the clergy of the East of London waited on Mr. Bouvierie, at the office of the Poor-law Board, on Wednesday, to draw attention to the inequality of the poor-rates in the Metropolis. Mr. Bouvierie did not show the slightest sympathy with the views of the deputation. He maintained that local rating is the only check to extravagance, and that so long as there is local rating, there will be an inequality of burdens. The adoption of the principle of an equalised poor-rate for the Metropolis would lead to metropolitan centralisation and a great expenditure. The poor-rate has a tendency to expand unless "the screw" be rigorously applied. The screw is local rating. The deputation were anxious to obtain from Mr. Bouvierie a pledge that a committee of the House of Commons should investigate the matter; but, declining to give any pledge, he promised "dispassionate consideration." A large meeting, held at the London Coffee-house, on Thursday, Alderman Sydney in the chair, passed resolutions condemning the state of the law in relation to local rating for the poor, and requiring an equalisation of the rates throughout the Metropolis.

THE CONVICT MANSSELL.—The judges gave their decision in this case on Wednesday, and declaring that none of the alleged errors in the mode of impanelling the jury could be supported in point of law, affirmed the judgment, and the unfortunate prisoner was ordered to be recommitted to Maidstone Gaol, and there hung on the 18th of May.

LUNDHILL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—The bodies are now being fast recovered, some 83 having thus far been found. Several of them were on Saturday conveyed for interment to Darfield Church, followed by a large number of their relatives and friends and numerous spectators, many of them weeping with great bitterness, and forming a very mournful *cortege*. An incident occurred on the way which created a very painful sensation. Among the mourners was a young married woman named Ann Brookes, sister to the widow of Amos James. Brookes was taken suddenly ill on the road, and died before any assistance could be rendered to her. The further the work of clearance proceeds the greater are the evidences of the almost unparalleled violence of the explosion. On the north side of the pit, more especially, the strata and working apparatus are found to be torn and dashed to an almost incredible degree. The bodies present the appearance, when found, of having died almost instantly, and the miners who are engaged in the work of clearance ridicule the idea that any of those who have perished were alive when the shafts were closed, a few hours after the explosion.

FALL OF THREE HOUSES AND LOSS OF LIFE.—A sad catastrophe took place on Saturday. Three houses, Nos. 146, 147, and 148, Tottenham-court-road, fell down and caused the loss of five lives, besides doing serious injury to several persons. The premises were in the occupation of Messrs. Maple, furniture warehousemen, and were very old. In one of the houses which has fallen it is said that the furniture and other stock in trade were of the value of several thousand pounds. From fifty to sixty men were at work at the time, and some score or more of shopmen and others were sleeping or dressing in different parts of the house at the time of the accident. On the kitchen range, which yet clings with tenacity to its place in the chimney nearly at the top of the house, there are still the kettles, and on the mantelpiece over it the teapots and pewter wares which in a few minutes would have been brought into use for the breakfast of the establishment. For some time after the house had fallen the fire burnt brightly, and the boiling water streamed forth out of the kettle-spout on to the ruins below. In an adjoining apartment portions of wearing apparel and a carpet-bag hang on the pegs against the wall; their owner, while still in his bed, was suffocated amid the fallen ruins. The cook, who was preparing the breakfast, is a mutilated corpse; she was hurled among the falling timbers of the adjoining house. A lad engaged cleaning the knives escaped, although precipitated from the top of the house, with only a few slight scratches. All around the spot where he was found lie piled up in strange confusion the *débris* of the houses. The first who escaped were, singular to relate, Mrs. Christmas, the housekeeper, and two young women employed in the drapery department. They were in the sitting-room on the second floor of 146 when the house fell, and were very slightly hurt. The escape of Mrs.

Christmas was truly miraculous. She was at the moment of the fall dusting the piano, with which she was carried away, and, falling in the hollow between the piano and a beam, she escaped with a slight graze of the leg. An inquest on the bodies of the deceased commences to-day. Mr. Hunter and Mr. Maple are the rival dealers. The front of Mr. Hunter's house and the party wall—still standing—are newly built. The house of Messrs. Maple is old, and would by this time have been a ruin had it not been "shored" up at an early period of the day.

Literature.

The Protestant Theological and Ecclesiastical Encyclopedia. Being a Condensed Translation of HERZOG'S "Real Encyclopedia," with Additions from other Sources. By J. H. A. BOMBERGER, D.D., Assisted by Distinguished Theologians of Various Denominations. (Part III.) Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark.

THE "Real Encyclopädie für Protestantische Theologie und Kirche," which has appeared in Germany under the editorship of Dr. Herzog, is received by scholars universally as the highest work of its kind for scientific structure, deep learning and research, and faithfulness to the truth as generally held by Evangelical churches. Its contributors number more than a hundred of the best scholars and most orthodox divines of Germany; among whom we find Delitzsch, Dorner, Ebrard, Baumgarten, Auberlen, Giesecke, Gericke, Hagenbach, Kurtz, Lange, Lücke, Müller, Nitzsch, Rödiger, Tholuck, Tuch, Tweten, Ullmann, Ulrich, Umbreit, and Wieseler—names unparalleled for learning and piety. Most truly does Dr. Bomberger say: "Never has the Church commanded the talents of so many devout men, so eminently qualified for making the best use of all accumulated material, or so cheerfully and piously inclined to co-operate in the arduous task of working it up into the most available form." It will also be seen from these names, that this noble work is the product of what is justly described as "regenerated German learning"—and its whole character indicates "a penitent return" from "sceptical and destructive rationalism" to the "only living foundation of all knowledge and wisdom."

The work of which one part is before us, is a "condensed translation" of Herzog's great work; prepared in America, and issued, by arrangement with the editor, by Messrs. Clark, of Edinburgh, to the English public. The principle of condensation is approved by Herzog himself, who remarks to Dr. Bomberger, that "many articles may be condensed without injury to their integrity." It is only to be hoped that this process will be very carefully watched by the editor, and the result will undoubtedly be more favourable to the student than the reproduction of the original entire. But there are, also, additions made to Herzog, in this English translation,—namely, of articles from Winer and other sources, and of original articles on English names and events in Church-history, which were not necessary to the completeness of the original, but are indispensable to the new sphere to which the work has now to be adapted.

It will thus embrace all subjects proper to the literature of "the Protestant Catholic Religion and Church;"—including *Biblical Literature*—*Philology*, *Criticism*, *Hermeneutics*, *History*, *Antiquities*, *Science*, and *Natural History*;—*Systematic Literature*—*Apologetic*, *Dogmatic*, *Moral Sciences*, *Polemical* and *Pastoral Theology*, *Homiletics*, *Church Polity* and *Church Art*;—*Historical Literature*—*Biography*, *History of the Church*, *of Theology*, *of Patristics*, *of Sects and Heresies*;—and *Historical Symbolism*; or, "a Representation of the Comparative Position and Relation of the various Evangelical Denominations, and their Respective Doctrinal and other Characteristics." A work thus extensive has no rival amongst us. Calmet, Kitto, and Dictionaries of Theological knowledge, only cover parts of the ground. This work, therefore, has three special claims,—its comprehensiveness of all matters belonging to biblical, theological, and ecclesiastical literature; its unapproached learning and scientific structure; and its Protestant and Evangelical character.

In this notice, we have not entered into criticism; we have simply described the work before us. Only the third part has reached us for review;—though we had seen and attentively read great part of the preceding numbers before this third came to hand. We shall, perhaps, another time, return to the publication, as we feel great interest in its appearance, and desire its success. We now only add, that it is an undertaking deserving the attention of all students and ministers, that the work is remarkably cheap, and that, if executed as it promises to be, it will be one of the greatest boons English sacred literature has ever received.

Expository Discourses on the Epistle to the Philippians. By THOMAS TOLLER. London: John Snow.

The history of this volume is briefly told in its preface: the author has for many years usually devoted the Lord's-day morning to exposition, and has been solicited by his congregation to publish some one set of discourses as a memorial of these exercises. He has fixed on the Epistle to the Philippians, partly on account of its brevity, and partly because there is no *separate* exposition of that epistle in English. The discourses are printed as delivered.

The little volume thus quietly sent forth from the press, is one of the most genuine and useful works recently contributed to our popular divinity. As an Exposition, it is marked by thorough knowledge and

spiritual insight. It traces the progress of the Apostle's thought carefully and clearly; it gives full unfolding and admirable illustration to the great principles and truths contained in the epistle; it acutely and happily employs the personal traits and the touches of circumstance that occasionally appear, in aid of the general interpretation; and it abounds in practical remark, in which the truths taught are concentrated on Christian character and life. As a specimen of pulpit discourse it commands our fullest approbation and sympathy, as being in the highest degree intelligible, interesting, and forcible; giving sound instruction and weighty thought in a manner remarkable for plainness, conciseness, and expressiveness. We could scarcely find a contemporary volume of similar character, in which the materials of the student and the exercises of the thinker are so successfully brought to an efficient work of truly popular instruction.

In the hands of preachers who are not independent and conscientious students, or who have no considerable intellectual grasp and strength, "expository preaching" is apt to become desultory and dull—wanting in the unity essential to a discourse that is to fix the attention and remain in the recollection of a popular audience—and often becoming mere common-place comment on a succession of verses, between which severally the true connection is not perceived, and between which and the general context there is no hint of any relation whatever. We have ourselves writhed and mourned in spirit under a good deal of such preaching in our time. We would specially commend Mr. Toller's work to ministers, as furnishing an excellent example of what may be, and ought to be, done for the edification of a congregation, by discourses that are really and truly *expository*.

Mr. E. G. Salisbury, the new member for Chester, has refused to subscribe to the "Members' Plate," but he intends to appropriate the amount (30*l.*) usually subscribed by the member to the races, in support of the city charities.

Joe Phelps was nursing his sister's baby, which, in the absence of its mother, had woken up before its time, and driven him desperate. He commenced singing:—

Women are all a fleeting show,
For man's delusion given;
When filed with bran and stuffed with tow,
They look—

A tap upon the door stopped Joe in the midst of his suggestive song. The door was opened, and a roguish, laughing pair of eyes peered in upon him. "Your sister is not at home, is she?" chirruped the visitor. "No, ma'am," stammered Joe, growing very red in the face; "and I have turned nurse." Miss Hayes laughed; offered to relieve him of his charge; which he willingly consented to; sitting near by, the while, intently watching her. She managed baby to a charm, and Joe was captivated. Joseph Phelps married Fanny Hayes—upon our word he did.—*American Paper.*

BIRTHS.

May 6, at Grosvenor-square, Viscountess MILTON, of a son.
May 8, at Liverpool, the wife of Mr. ALFRED REDFORD, of twine.

May 9, at Wendover, the wife of the Rev. THOMAS ROBERTS, of her third son.

May 10, at the residence of James Mellor, Esq., 15, Cleveland-square, Hyde-park, Mrs. A. W. PAULTON, of a son.

May 10, at Cranbrook, Kent, the wife of Mr. SPONG, of a son.

May 12, at Ramsgate, the wife of Mr. G. H. JAMESON, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

May 3, at St. Paul's Independent Chapel, Wigan, by the Rev. William Roaf, Mr. JOHN ADAMSON, of Ashton-in-Macclesfield, to Miss PILLING, of the same place; also Mr. JOHN DRAMAN, of Lincs, to Miss WALKDEN, of Wigan; also Mr. J. W. UNSWORTH, of Downall-green, near Wigan, to Miss ELIZA CROMPTON, of the same place.

May 5, at St. Nicholas Church, Brighton, THOMAS E. WITTINGTON, Esq., of Culcheth Hall, Lancashire, to CECILIA JANE, daughter of the Rev. E. CARDWELL, D.D., Principal of St. Albans' Hall, Oxford.

May 6, at the Independent Chapel, Aylesbury, by the Rev. W. J. Gates, by licence, Mr. FRANCIS COX, of Rythe, to SARAH, only daughter of the late Mr. ROSE of Cranwell Farm, Waddington.

May 7, at the General Baptist Chapel, Spalding, by the Rev. J. C. Jones, M.A., Mr. E. FOSTER, Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, Leicester, to Miss M. E. BARNES, younger daughter of Mr. J. BARNES, of Spalding.

May 8, at the Friends' Meeting-house, Ampthill, Bedfordshire, RICHARD BUCK, of 6, Coleman-street, London, to HARRIET, younger daughter of CHARLES MAY, civil engineer, Great George-street, Westminster.

May 12, at Lee Church, Kent, by the Rev. Henry Burgess, LL.D., Ph.D., of Clifton Reynes, Bucks, uncle of the bride, HENRY GOVER, Esq., youngest son of WILLIAM GOVER, Esq., of Lee-park, Blackheath, to ELIZABETH, eldest daughter of JOSEPH BURGESS, Esq., 2, Keene's-row, Walworth, Surrey.

DEATHS.

May 3, suddenly, at Margate, from a severe stroke of illness, while attending morning service in the parish church, Amelia, third daughter of F. W. COOMBE, Esq., banker, aged thirty-five years.

May 3, at her residence, Newmarket, near Nailsworth, in the seventy-fourth year of her age, SOPHIA, relict of the late JOHN HENKIN, Esq., and only surviving daughter of the late Rev. BENJAMIN FRANCIS, A.M., for forty-three years the pastor of the Baptist Church at Shortwood, Gloucestershire.

May 4, at his residence, Hackney, the Rev. B. WOODWARD, aged sixty-five.

May 5, at Grilstone, Bishop's Nympton, the Rev. WM. THORN, for many years minister of the Independent Chapel, Southmolton, highly respected, aged ninety years.

May 6, in Eaton-square, the Dowager Lady ST. JOHN MILD-MAY, of Dogmersfield-park, Hants, widow of Sir HENRY PAULET ST. JOHN MILD-MAY, Bart., in her ninety-third year.

May 7, at 11, Bridport-place, New North-road, London, ELIZABETH, relict of the late Mr. JOHN SMEATHERS, currier, of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, aged eighty-two.

May 8, at Tonbridge Wells, MARIA, widow of the late Mr. BARCHAM, of Tonbridge, aged sixty-five years.

May 8, at Brighton, DAVID TREVENE COULTON, Esq., editor of the *Press* newspaper, and of No. 2, Park-prospect, Westminster, aged forty-six.

May 9, in London, DR. FIFE, late professor of the Queen's College.

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

CITY, Tuesday Evening.

The prospects of the Money Market are becoming brighter, and the drain of gold has diminished. The appearance of the funds to-day was favourable, and a rise of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. was finally established. The Government broker continues to invest in Exchequer Bills at the rate of 30,000*l.* per diem. In the share markets the settlement has commenced, but firmness also prevailed. The money market to-day was easier. In the discount market the supply of capital was more liberal, and in the Stock Exchange, notwithstanding the usual demand in connection with the settlement, money was obtainable at six per cent. for short periods on Government securities.

Of the 146,000*l.* in specie and bullion brought on English account by the *Arabia* from New York, 70,000*l.* or 80,000*l.*, consisting of bar gold, was to-day purchased by the Bank. The wind having at length veered to the westward, considerable arrivals of Australian gold are looked for.

The Railway Share market has exhibited rather more buoyancy, and most of the principal undertakings are at improved quotations. In Mining Shares no business has been reported, and prices are nominally steady. Joint Stock Bank Shares show no material variation in the rates. In the Miscellaneous shares prices have a downward tendency.

The reports of the trade of the manufacturing towns during the past week show no alteration. At Manchester the dulness has been increased by the firmness of the Liverpool cotton-market, which further diminishes the relative profit on manufactured goods, and induces a limitation of production. The Birmingham accounts describe steadiness in the iron trade, and confidence with regard to its prospects. For the general manufactures of the place the foreign and colonial orders are in most cases satisfactory, and there is also a fair home demand. In the woollen districts there has been a slight increase of activity, and the Irish linen-markets are without change.

The departures from the port of London during the past week for the Australian colonies comprised three vessels—one to Auckland, one to Adelaide, and one to Launceston—with an aggregate capacity of 1,211 tons. The rates of freight exhibit little variation.

The general business of the port of London still remains very inactive. This is owing to the recent easterly wind. A large number of vessels are now overdue. The total number of vessels reported inwards during the past week was 131, being 18 less than in the previous week. These include the American ship *Swallow*, with a cargo of 26,084 packages of tea. The number of ships cleared outward was 135, including 12 in ballast, showing a decrease of 19. The total number of vessels on the berth loading for the Australian colonies is 47, being 5 less than at the last account. Of those now loading 4 are for Adelaide, 3 for Geelong, 3 for Hobart Town, 3 for Launceston, 1 for Melbourne, 4 for New Zealand, 12 for Port Philip, 1 for Portland Bay, 15 for Sydney, and 1 for Swan River. Of these, 1 was entered outward in January 2, in February, and 9 in March.

PROGRESS OF THE STOCKS DURING THE WEEK.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	93 <i>1</i> $\frac{1}{2}$					
Consols for Account	93 <i>1</i> $\frac{1}{2}$					
3 per cent. Red.	93 <i>1</i> $\frac{1}{2}$					
New 3 per cent.						
Annuities	93 <i>1</i> $\frac{1}{2}$					
India Stock	22 <i>1</i>	22 <i>1</i>	—	22 <i>1</i>	22 <i>1</i>	22 <i>1</i>
Bank Stock	21 <i>8</i>					
Exchequer-bills	1 <i>dis</i>	4 <i>dis</i>	par	par	par	par
India Bonds	4 <i>dis</i>	—	5 <i>dis</i>	—	4 <i>dis</i>	—
Long Annuities	18	16 <i>15-16</i>	18	—	—	—

City Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Friday's *Gazette*.)

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, c. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 2nd day of May, 1857.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued £23,329,595 Government Debt £11,015,100
Other Securities .. 3,459,900 Gold Coin & Bullion 8,854,595
Silver Bullion .. —

£23,329,595 £23,329,595

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital £14,553,000 Government Securities (including Dead
-Rest 3,278,869 Weight Annuity) £11,300,222
Public Deposits 5,890,160 Other Securities .. 18,410,823
Other Deposits 9,491,244 Notes 3,553,365
Seven Day and other Bills 755,370 Gold & Silver Coin 704,222

£23,968,643 £23,968,643

May 7, 1857. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Friday, May 8, 1857.

BANKRUPT.

SWIFT, J., Gravesend, Kent, statuary mason, May 19, June 18; solicitor, Mr. Buchanan, Basinghall-street.

CAMERON, W. O., Camomile-street, City, export oilman, May 19, June 23; solicitor, Mr. Buchanan, Basinghall-street; and Mr. Chidley, Basinghall-street.

NORTON, R. J., Fleet-street, City, ladies' outfitter and baby linen warehouseman, May 19, June 16; solicitor, Mr. Cattlin, Ely-place, Holborn.

SCUTLEY, T., Sheerness, stonemason and builder, auctioneer and appraiser, May 25, June 29; solicitor, Mr. Selby, Coleman-street.

DAVIES, T., Neath, Glamorganshire, contractor, May 19, June 16; solicitors, Messrs. Bevan and Girling, Bristol.

BROWN, W. G., High-street, Dartford, Kent, clothier and outfitter, May 23, June 19; solicitor, Mr. Chidley, Basinghall-street.

CATT, J., High-street, Southwark, Lewisham, and Greenwich, hop merchant and brewer, May 19, June 16; solicitors, Messrs. Piercy and Hawks, Three Crown-square, Southwark.

SUMMERS, J., Hatton-garden, wholesale jeweller, May 20, June 16; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Old Jewry-chambers.

WHEELER, H., Derby, painter and paperhanger, May 26, June 9; solicitors, Messrs. Bowley and Ashwell, Nottingham; and Mr. Footitt, Derby.

BRADLEY, T., Kidderminster, apothecary, May 22, June 12; solicitors, Mr. Boycott, Kidderminster; and Mr. Knight, Birmingham.

EWING, T. R., Wapping-wall, and Forest Villa, Forest Hill, Sydenham, ale and beer merchant, May 22, June 19; solicitors, Mr. Walford, Duke-street, London-bridge, Southwark.

STEPHENS, W., Gloucester, cattle and sheep salesman, May 25, June 16; solicitor, Mr. Wilkes, Gloucester.

Tuesday, May 12, 1857.

BANKRUPT.

MONKES, S., Coleman-street, City, importer of foreign and fancy goods, May 26, June 23; solicitor, Mr. Bailey, Tokenhouse-yard.

CROWTHER, A., and CROWTHER, W., Huddersfield, carriers, May 29, June 26; solicitors, Messrs. Floyd and Learoyd, Huddersfield; and Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds.

HARRISON, H., Sheffield, draper, May 23, June 27; solicitors, Messrs. Hoole and Yeomans, Sheffield.

CRUSE, J., Kintbury, Berkshire, builder, May 25, June 29; solicitors, Messrs. Gregory and Co., Bedford-row; and Messrs. Pinniger and Sons, Newbury, Berks.

GALE, R., Skirrett, Buckinghamshire, grocer, May 21, June 18; solicitors, Messrs. Rhodes, Sons, and Duffett, Chancery-lane.

MAY, J., Goswell-street, Clerkenwell, linendraper, May 29, June 26; solicitor, Mr. Giles, London-wall.

ORGAN, W., Walsall, Staffordshire, saddler, May 27, June 15; solicitors, Mr. Thomas, Walsall; and Messrs. Hodgson and Allen, Birmingham.

BRANGWYN, C., the younger, Greenwich, grocer, May 21, June 18; solicitors, Messrs. Atkins, Andrews, and Co., Lombard-street.

HUDDLESTON, M., and HUDDLESTON, T., Berners-street, Oxford-street, cabinet makers, May 25, June 29; solicitor, Mr. Tate, Bucklersbury.

SEAL, N., and SEAL, J., Birmingham, hat manufacturers, May 22, June 19; solicitors, Mr. Dafton, Ashton-under-Lyne; and Messrs. Sale, Worthington, and Shipman, Manchester.

JONES, W., Carnburn, slate merchant, May 25, June 18; solicitor

off slowly, but no quotable change took place in their value. We had a dull sale for pigs at last week's currency.

Per Sib to sink the offal.

s. d. a. d.	s. d. a. d.
Inf. coarse beasts	Pr. coarse woolled
Second quality	Prime Southdown
Prime large oxen	Lge. coarse calves
Prime Scots, &c.	Prime small
Coarse inf. sheep	Large hogs
Second quality	Neat sm. porkers
Lamb, 5s 6d to 6s 4d.	

Suckling calves, 2s 6d to 3s each.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, May 11.

The supplies of both town and country-killed meat on offer in these markets are moderately good, and the trade generally is far from active at our quotations.

Per Sib to the carcass.

s. d. a. d.	s. d. a. d.
Inferior beef	Inf. mutton
Middling ditto	Middling ditto
Prime large do	Prime ditto
Do. small do.	Veal
Large pork	Small pork
Lamb, 5s 6d to 6s 4d.	

PRODUCE MARKET, MINCING-LANE, May 12.

SUGAR.—The market has opened with a downward appearance, and the amount of business done has been small. 270 hds West India sold, chiefly consisting of Barbadoes, in public sale, which showed a decline of 6d to 1s. 16,000 bags of Mauritius were offered in public sale. The importers showed firmness, would not submit to a decline, and four-fifths were bought in; the remainder sold from 3s to 6s. 900 bags Bengal were also offered, and all bought in. The refined market is dull, and quoted about 1s lower than the late highest price; lumps, 6s to 7s.

COFFEE.—The public sale of Mocha was bought in at previous rates. Three cargoes of Brazil are reported sold; the exact particulars have not transpired.

TEA.—The market is firm, yet the transactions are unimportant. Common congou quoted 12s 4d; with but few sellers at that price.

Markets generally have been dull to-day.

PROVISIONS, Monday, May 11.—Since our last report the demand for Irish butter has been on a limited scale, and chiefly confined to new 4th Cork, at 8s to 8s; scarcely any inquiry for old. Foreign supplied nearly all wants, at prices far preferable to fine quality from 5s to 10s; some stale and inferior descriptions were reported as sold at from 3s to 4s to 6s per cwt. Bacon moved slowly in the early part of the week, but attracted rather more attention towards the close, when sales were made to a fair extent of Irish singed sides at 6s to 7s, and Hambo' at 6s to 6s landed, as in size and quality, and at corresponding rates on board. Hams of prime quality were in request, at from 8s to 9s, according to size. Lard was dull. Irish bladdered at 7s to 8s, kogs 7s to 7s. American refined 6s to 6s.

PRICES OF BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS, &c.

s. s.	s. s.
Friesland, per swt.	94 to 104
Kiel	100
Dorset	100
Carlow	—
Waterford	—
Cork	94
Limerick	90
Sligo	98
Fresh, per dozen	12
Cheshire, per swt.	88 to 78
Double Gloucester	60
Single ditto	—
York Hams	90 100
Westmoreland ditto	90 100
Irish ditto	84 96
Wiltshire Bacon (dried)	74 78
Irish (green)	70 72

Advertisements.

THE GRADUATES and the CHARTER.
See the "PATRIOT" of FRIDAY, May 8.
3, Bolt-court, Fleet-street.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT.—The "PATRIOT" of FRIDAY, May 15, will contain a full REPORT of the MEETINGS of the CONGREGATIONAL UNION; HOME, COLONIAL, and IRISH MISSIONS. Price 6d. unstamped.

3, Bolt-court, Fleet-street.

STAYS SUPERSEDED.—Stiff Stays destroy natural grace, produce deformity, and implant disease. MARTIN'S ELASTIC BODICE is without whalebone or lacing, furnishing a good support, and adjusted in one minute.

THE NEW PETTICOAT

is made with springs of Brass, Steel, or Malague, and is remarkable for its lightness and elasticity.

GARNETT and CO., 31, Wells-street, Oxford-street; and Crystal Palace. (Established at 504, Oxford-street.) Premiums post free.

RIMMEL'S TOILET VINEGAR is far superior to Eau de Cologne for all Toilet and Sanitary Purposes. Price 1s, 2s 6d., and 3s.—39, Gerard-street, Soho, London.

WHAT WILL THIS COST TO PRINT?
It is often a thought passing through the minds of literary and public characters, and persons of benevolent feelings. Apply as under, and you will receive every information required.

RICHARD BARRETT, MARK LANE, LONDON.

Established 25 Years.

PIANOFORTE for TWENTY GUINEAS.
A very powerful and brilliant-toned SEMI-COTTAGE, in an elegant Rosewood Case, 6½ Octaves, Metallic Plate, &c., has all the recent improvements, been very little used, and will be sold at the above low price for cash. To be seen at Messrs. Ralph Smith and Co.'s, 171, Bishopsgate-street Without.

£10,000 READY to be ADVANCED, in sums of 50s. and upwards, upon the Security of freehold, Copyhold, and Leasehold Property.

Apply, between the hours of nine and five, to Mr. J. E. Tredder, 37, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars.

RUPTURED PERSONS should go to R. BAILEY, 418, Oxford-street, for their TRUSSES, price 7s. 6d. to 15s. Enameled, &c. Elastic Stockings, warranted to wash—cotton 7s. 6d.; silk, 12s. 6d. May be had, per post, from W. H. BAILEY, 418, Oxford-street, near Soho-square.

COALS.—Best Coals only.—COCKERELL and Co.'s price is now 2s. per ton net for the BEST SCREENED COALS, as supplied by them to her Majesty.—13, Cornhill; Purfleet-wharf, Earl-street, Blackfriars; and Eaton-wharf, Belgrave-place, Pimlico.

COALS.—By Screw and Railway.—LEA and Co., Highbury and Kingsland COAL DEPOTS.—HETTON'S, 2s. PER TON, the best house coals in the world, are brought direct from the Colliery to the Poplar Docks, by the screw-steamer Cochran, Hetton, and Northumberland; or the Marchioness of Londonderry's Stewart's Wallsend delivered, screened, to any part of London, at 2s. per ton, esah. Highgate, Hampstead, Hornsey, or Edmonton, 1s. per ton extra. All orders to be addressed to LEA and CO., Chief Office, North London Railway Stations, Highbury, Islington, or Kingsland.

THE NONCONFORMIST.

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